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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-94-142* *25 July 1994*

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## Arab-Israeli Talks

### Israeli-Jordanian-U.S. Talks Begin in Washington

#### King Husayn Arrives in Washington

*JN2307071994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur arrived in Washington at 0200, Jordan time, this morning. Arriving with their majesties were Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, House of Deputies Speaker Tahir al-Masri, the king's political adviser Marwan al-Qasim, and Jordanian Ambassador in Washington Dr. Fayiz al- Tarawinah. [passage omitted]

#### Committee Views Proposed Roadway

*JN2307072594 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Jul 94 p 1*

[Text] Jordanian and Israeli transport experts, together with U.S. officials, yesterday inspected the route of a proposed road linking Jordan, Israel, and Egypt.

The tripartite Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. meeting in Washington during the first week of June decided in principle to assign a Jordanian-Israeli committee, with the U.S. represented by the U.S. Corps of Engineers, to visit a site proposed for a road linking al-'Aqabah, Taba, and Elat in order to reach an understanding on the use of that road for both cars and trucks.

#### Israel Asks Jordan To Reduce Army

*JN2407130994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Information indicates that Israel is asking Jordan to discharge a third of its Army personnel before a peace agreement between Amman and Tel Aviv is reached. But official Jordanian sources have said that they do not have any confirmed information about that Israeli demand.

The sources explained that Jordan would object to Israel's demand for reducing the number of the Jordanian Army personnel, that discussion of that issue depended on achieving a just and lasting peace on all the other tracks, and that this would be conditional on a similar reduction in the Israeli Forces and the Israeli military arsenal, particularly the advanced weapons, aircraft, and long-range missiles.

#### Rabin Sees Need for U.S. Help

*TA2507054094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 25 Jul 94*

[Report by Arye Golan in Washington]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin spoke with Israeli journalists at a dinner in his honor at Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich's residence in Washington last night. Mr. Rabin said nothing has been finalized yet in the contacts with Jordan on the White House ceremony. The following are excerpts from the prime minister's remarks:

We are not yet discussing a peace treaty with Jordan. The White House meeting is a significant move, but it is only another stage in a long journey, and we would not have reached even that stage had we not signed the agreement with the PLO on 13 September 1993. The United States must assist the brave to make peace between them. If Jordan is in economic distress, no solution has a chance and the process will not bear fruit. Without U.S. economic aid, the papers, words, and visions will be worthless. The significance of the White House ceremony is to knock down the psychological wall.

On Jerusalem and the Islamic holy places, the prime minister recalled that the waqf is already being funded by Jordan and that King Husayn used his own funds to pay for covering the Dome of the Rock with gold leaf. Rabin does not care whether there are problems and friction between Jordan and the Palestinians on that issue. Four Arab elements claim responsibility for the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem: the PLO, Husayn, Saudi Arabia, and Moroccan King Hasan, and that is not so bad, Rabin said. We are in no hurry; let them trouble their heads about it and work things out between them.

Referring to the reaction from the Israeli right wing, Rabin said: I do not give a damn about the right wing. If I believe in something, I go for it.

On Syria, Rabin said al-Asad has no less a vested interest in the continuation of the peace process than does Israel. We need patience, he said.

This is what the prime minister had to say only hours before the historic first public meeting with King Husayn at the White House.

[Later in the same newsreel, political correspondent Shlomo Raz cites "the highest levels in Israel" as saying that what made the negotiations with Jordan possible was "an Israeli commitment to discuss the components of peace," especially water and borders, "at this stage." Raz adds that as far as is known, "there has not yet been any mention of the refugee problem." Raz also reports that "unlike Peres, who said en route to Washington that there will be a peace agreement with Jordan by the end of the year, Rabin is not prepared to commit himself on a date for signing a peace accord with Jordan."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 25 July adds that at the dinner, Rabin said that "a summit between him and King Husayn was supposed to have taken place in 'En 'Avrona 10 days ago, but it was canceled for various reasons."

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT 25 July carries a report by Udi Segal from Washington in which Segal says that "Israel will ask the United States for

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financial compensation for the progress in the negotiations with Jordan. Israel is in fact telling the United States: You want to enjoy the fruits of the peace; fine, pay up in dollars." Segal adds that Israel understands that President Clinton is involved in the process for "his own political reasons." According to the report, Israel wants the U.S. aid "at the next stage, in the negotiations with Syria," and sees the United States fulfilling the role of "reassuring al-Asad and making sure the negotiations momentum continues, although it is believed that he will not make progress at this stage. As the prime minister said at the Rabinovich dinner: Al-Asad does not want to be Husayn's tail."]

### Peres: 1967 Decision 'Good Formula'

*TA2507104294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jul 94 pp A1, A8*

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Aluf Ben, and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres believes that the government's decision from 19 June 1967 on a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for full peace constitutes a good formula for the launching of peace negotiations with Syria. Speaking to reporters during his flight to Washington with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Peres said "the decision in 1967 was formulated very carefully. The resolution stipulates our return to the international border in exchange for full peace, on condition that our security needs are taken into consideration and our water sources guaranteed. Security needs leave quite a lot of room for maneuver."

Peres said his statement that "we have repeatedly recognized Syria's sovereignty over the Golan Heights" met with a chilly reception in Damascus; "however, there was a great degree of pretense in that." Peres asserted that his statement had "greatly softened Syria's reaction to the developments with Jordan."

In reply to a question on whether he had coordinated his statements with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Peres said: "I was speaking about the past. This is not the first time I have said that, and I do not think one has to coordinate such statements. Furthermore, I was not reprimanded about this. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Peres said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's trip to Damascus after meeting with Peres in Cairo last Thursday [21 July] was designed to enable him to discuss with al-Asad changing the framework of negotiations. "Mubarak focuses more on methodology than on substance," Peres said. "The negotiations with Syria should be held on two levels: a public track, in order to meet the requirements of the public, and a secret track, in order to meet the needs of the negotiations and handle them without bombastic declarations."

Peres said al-Asad is insisting on U.S. mediation between Syria and Israel because "he expects something in return from the Americans."

[A related report by the same correspondents on pages A1, A8 of the same edition of HA'ARETZ adds that "Peres said yesterday that once peace is reached with Jordan, Israel will not be opposed to the United States' supplying the Jordanian Air Force with F-16 fighter jets."]

### Paper on Content of Joint Statement

*JN2507091394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Jul 94 pp 1, 21*

[Text] Washington—AL-RA'Y has learned from diplomatic sources here that a Jordanian-Israeli committee yesterday finished drafting a joint statement which will be signed or announced at the end of today's tripartite summit in Washington between King Husayn, Clinton, and Rabin.

The sources said that the statement includes terminating the state of war between the two countries, seeking to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region, endorsing a project to develop the Jordan Rift Valley, and recognizing all Jordanian rights to territories and waters.

### Shohat, Abu-'Ala' Discuss Economic Cooperation

*TA2407153194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Israel is willing to give the Palestinian autonomy 7 million shekels at once, as part of handing over taxes Palestinian laborers paid in Israel over the years. This announcement was made this afternoon by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat at the end of his meeting with Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], who is in charge of economic affairs in the Autonomy. The meeting near Jericho ended a short while ago. If Abu-'Ala' gives me a name of a bank and a bank account number, I will deliver the money tomorrow, Minister Shohat said.

Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that Abu-'Ala' announced that he no longer opposes economic cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians in the autonomy. The statement surprised his listeners because so far he firmly opposed such cooperation. In the meeting today, it was decided to set up 10 subcommittees on economic issues which will gradually start working as early as next week.

### Christopher Mission Shows U.S. 'Serious' About Peace

*MM2207151194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jul 94 p 9*

[Editorial: "Sound Moves for the Sake of Peace"]

[Text] All indications are that the United States is moving steadily toward the establishment of peace in the Middle East and that it is doing so successfully.

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There are many signs that the United States is moving strongly in the heart of the Arab region with the aim of promoting a final solution acceptable to all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Lebanese question is being addressed. A letter from the Congress majority leader to President Clinton indicates that withdrawal of the Israeli and Syrian forces is necessary for Lebanon's security.

But before that step, or in parallel with it, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is on the move to pave the way for Syrian-Israeli negotiations which were suspended because of Israeli procrastination and intransigence. Israel annexed the Golan Heights without any legal grounds, and it has since been using that card to put pressure on Syria. Now the Israeli foreign minister is saying that the Heights are Syrian—which gives the impression that Israel no longer contests Syria's right to recover them. Christopher's departure for Syria from Israel after a long meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and his statement in Jerusalem that "there are new hopes and new opportunities for peace between Syria and Israel," all indicate that the United States is serious about ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and preparing the region for an era of stability.

It is a fact that Syria has expressed willingness to proceed with the peace process provided that it gets its territory back in return for peace. That is a balanced position, and Israel should not use delaying tactics or use pretexts that would make the establishment of peace an impossibility.

The U.S. move on the Jordanian-Israeli front is actually about to produce the desired results, and it is getting closer to consolidating the Gaza-Jericho step prior to tackling the entire issue despite the recent disturbances in Gaza.

From a purely objective angle, Israel clearly stands to gain considerably from the implementation of the land-for-peace principle because it would get peace agreements guaranteed by the Arab governments on the one hand and by the international community on the other—something that was not available in that way before. The current circumstances in international politics, with the big powers trying to prevent regional explosions, make it necessary to go back to the roots and the basics. Therefore any procrastination or ambiguity on the question of Jerusalem would only mean maintaining all the elements of anxiety. And the same applies to the question of a Palestinian state and its natural control of the occupied territory. A Syrian-Israeli agreement, with Syria getting back the Golan Heights, would be a sound step on the road to peace but would not be sufficient, because the forces must be withdrawn from Lebanon, Jordan must get back its territory, and the Israeli nuclear threat to the entire region, that aggressive threat which frustrates all stability plans, must end categorically. Decisive measures should be taken in that respect so that the region can really embark on a new era on firm, unshakable foundations.

On his mission, Warren Christopher should take into consideration that the partial successes everyone hopes for should be the firm foundations that will lead to a comprehensive and lasting peace for all the people of the region, otherwise any future building will be castles in the sand.

## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Saudi Arabia Reportedly Funded Iraqi Nuclear Program

*MM2407090294 London THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 24 Jul 94 pp 1-2*

[Report by Marie Colvin: "Britain's Gulf War Ally Helped Saddam Build Nuclear Bomb"; names as published]

[Text] Saudi Arabia has engaged in a secret 20-year campaign to acquire nuclear weapons. As part of its search, the oil rich state poured billions of dollars into Saddam Husayn's drive to build a bomb even as the Iraqi dictator was planning the invasion of Kuwait.

The Saudis gave Saddam up to $5 billion as part of an agreement in which Iraq would share its nuclear technology with Riyadh. The funding was only stopped with the outbreak of the Gulf war.

The deal, which will appal Britain and other Western allies who helped liberate Kuwait and protected Saudi Arabia from invasion, was part of a global search for nuclear weaponry that began in 1975 and has remained hidden from the West. Transcripts of a secret desert meeting between Saudi and Iraqi military teams in 1989—a year before Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait—show the Saudis funding the nuclear programme and handing over specialised equipment which Iraq could not obtain elsewhere.

The documents, seen by THE SUNDAY TIMES, were released by Mohammed Khilewi, a Saudi diplomat who was present at the meeting and who has recently defected and is seeking political asylum in the United States. The disclosures are so damaging that Khilewi was warned on Friday by a United States government agency of a plot to kidnap him and return him to Saudi Arabia.

Khilewi, the former second in command at the Saudi mission to the United Nations in New York, left his post in May and sought political asylum, denouncing his government's abuse of human rights.

He now wears a bullet-proof vest and moves constantly between safe houses protected by bodyguards. Yesterday Michael Wildes, his lawyer, said the kidnap threat had forced his client into hiding outside New York. Although afraid for his life, Khilewi has released some of the 13,000 Saudi documents in his possession to expose the regime's political and financial wheeling and dealing.

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These papers paint a devastating picture of a government that publicly played the role of the West's ally while secretly bargaining with its enemies.

They detail how the Saudis were prepared to use any source in their search for a bomb:

Beginning in the 1970s, they bankrolled Pakistan's bomb project and signed a pact that if Saudi Arabia were attacked with nuclear weapons Pakistan would respond against the aggressor with its own nuclear arsenal.

In 1990 a Saudi team paid Russian middlemen $15m as a downpayment for a $75m deal involving red mercury, a controversial nuclear material that many believe to be worthless.

Saudi Arabia set up its own nuclear research centre to study how to buy a bomb, although there is no evidence it has yet tried to build its own weapon.

American officials contacted last week about Saudi attempts to buy nuclear weapons were horrified. By far the most damaging revelation is the extent of Saudi involvement in Baghdad's nuclear programme, which Western intelligence believes was on the brink of success before the Gulf war. The conflict led to the destruction of Iraq's military industry and a severe setback for the programme.

According to Khilewi, the Saudis first opened a nuclear research office in a top secret military complex at Al-Suleiyel, near Al-Khari, in 1975 and started negotiating with the Iraqis 10 years later. At this office he saw about 100 Muslim technicians and three Westerners.

He first learned of the Iraqi-Saudi partnership in 1989 when he was seconded from the ministry of foreign affairs to the ministry of defence to be trained as a nuclear expert.

At that time the Iraqi nuclear programme was at a critical stage. After experimenting with four different methods of producing weapons-grade uranium, the Iraqi team had settled on its final plan: centrifuge enrichment, a modern and proven method used by Britain and the United States.

At the desert meeting in 1989, nine Saudi nuclear experts met 11 Iraqi counterparts in a tent near the border town of Judeida. According to the official notes, which Khilewi transcribed, the Iraqis were anxious for more Saudi money while the Saudis wanted to visit the Iraqi weapons research plant to check that their cash was being used to build a nuclear arsenal.

After extensive formal greetings, an Iraqi delegate told the Saudis of progress since the last meeting. "We would like to convey the news that the experiment went successfully," he said, adding that "the costs were extremely high".

The Saudis assured the Iraqis they had brought special equipment but insisted that a Saudi team should visit the Iraqi nuclear sites. The Iraqis agreed. "What is important is that the co-operation continues," said an Iraqi delegate.

The transcript shows the Iraqis then pressed for more funds. "We would like you to send a message to King Fahd that the president would like the amount agreed on to be transmitted in two sections, $200m through the Khaleej (Gulf) Bank, and $100m through the Swiss bank," an Iraqi delegate said. "Our agreement was for $3 billion but we have not received half that. Time is extremely important." This amount, says Khilewi, was only part of the total funding.

The Iraqis said they were "under tremendous pressure. Therefore, we would like you to provide us with the equipment we talked about in our last meeting". At the end of the five-hour rendezvous, the Saudis handed over 30 unmarked boxes.

Khilewi, who was his country's delegate to the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) talks, also revealed that Saudi nuclear scientists were sent to Baghdad for months of training.

The American government will feel deeply betrayed by the revelations. Prince Bandar, the Saudi ambassador to Washington, denied in an interview with ABC Television last month that his country had tried to acquire atomic weapons or had supported any programmes in any other countries.

It is clear, however, that the plot to acquire nuclear weapons is well known in the higher reaches of the Saudi government.

THE SUNDAY TIMES has independent confirmation of a conversation with a senior official about the Saudi decision to support the West and extend the NPT indefinitely. The man said that "even if we sign, that does not mean that we will stop our activities".

In the discussion, he added that the Iraqis had designed and built nuclear weapons anyway, while the Israelis had refused to sign and done the same. He indicated that Saudi Arabia, too, would do as it pleased, whatever its international commitments.

Khilewi said he decided to expose Saudi Arabia's secret deals because they were indicative of the behaviour of the royal family. This had led to the squandering of the nation's reserves on everything from weapons to royal luxuries.

He said he believed that criticism of the government had increased over the past few years because the regime's excesses have become widely known. This statement is supported by the latest Human Rights Watch report on Saudi Arabia. "The dismal human rights record of the kingdom took a turn for the worse in 1993," wrote author Abdul Aziz Abu-Hamad.

"Torture, ill treatment and incommunicado detention without trial remained the norm during the year, especially for those accused of political offences."

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The report cited abuses such as executions after summary trials; the ban on free speech, assembly or association: and the fact that violators were jailed, deported, or banned from travel for the expressions of views critical of the government.

### Israel Supports Revelations on Saudi-Iraqi Deal

*MM2507090694 London THE TIMES in English 25 Jul 94 p 12*

[Report by Christopher Walker: "Israelis Back Theory of Saudi Nuclear Deal with Saddam"]

[Text] Jerusalem—The revelation that Saudi Arabia has been engaged in a secret programme to acquire nuclear weapons was implicitly supported by Israelis yesterday.

Experts agreed that it complemented the kingdom's policy of hedging all its strategic bets, given its dependence on the United States for its security and its inextricable involvement with other countries in the Middle East.

According to THE SUNDAY TIMES, which was shown documents held by Muhammad Khilewi, the former second-in-command of the Saudi mission to the United Nations, the most controversial part of the search involved pouring billions of dollars into Iraq's drive to build a bomb.

The diplomat, who is seeking political asylum in the United States where he has been warned of a Saudi plot to kidnap him, claimed that Riyadh gave President Saddam Husayn up to $5 billion (3.3 billion pounds) as part of a deal in which Iraq would share its nuclear technology with the Saudis. The funding stopped only at the outbreak of the Gulf War in 1991. Commenting on the revelations, Professor Efraim Inbar, the director of the Begin-Sadat centre for strategic studies in Tel Aviv, said: "The facts do not come as a surprise and I am quite ready to believe them."

He added: "They fit in both with Saudi Arabia's policy of realpolitik in the region and with what we already know of the nuclear ambitions of the Baghdad regime at the time the funding from Riyadh is supposed to have begun in 1975."

Professor Inbar said: "What is also not surprising is that the Americans did not know what the Saudis were up to. Neither they nor our own Israeli intelligence were aware of the extent of Iraq's nuclear programme until a defector from Baghdad went to the US at the time of the Gulf crisis and spilled the beans."

The professor, author of Regional Security Regimes: Israel and her Neighbours, said he did not think the Saudis believed that Saddam would keep his side of the nuclear bargain, but they were prepared to pay him vast sums from their oil wealth "to keep him sweet and as a way of buying themselves protection. They have done the same with Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisations".

Mr. Khilewi authenticated his story by showing transcripts of a secret desert meeting between Saudi and Iraqi military teams, a year before the invasion of Kuwait, in which the Saudis were seen funding the nuclear programme and handing over specialised equipment that Iran could not have obtained elsewhere.

The defectors documents, regarded in diplomatic circles as genuine, also showed how Riyadh paid for Pakistan's bomb project and signed a pact that if Saudi Arabia were attacked with nuclear weapons, Pakistan would respond against the aggressor with its own nuclear arsenal.

### Arab Authority for Atomic Energy Session Opens

*LD2307190894 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] The sixth ordinary session of the general assembly of the Arab Authority for Atomic Energy [AAAE] opened in Tunis this morning. The meetings are being held at the headquarters of the AAAE in Tunis and expected to last three days.

At the opening of the session, (Mounji Safra), minister of state delegate to the prime minister in charge of scientific research and technology, said that Tunisia informed the AAAE that it undertakes to provide a headquarters for the Arab center for nuclear sciences and oversee its launching. He also made it clear that Tunisia pledged to cover the basic costs for its management.

He called for realizing the best possible use and effectiveness of Arab investments in nuclear science and technology as well as for a use of human and financial resources. He called for bolstering opportunities of cooperation and joint work in this field.

in an address at the opening meeting, Jasim Muhammad al-'Awn, Kuwaiti minister for communication, electricity and water, whose country is chairing the current session, called for a support of every joint Arab action and for the unification of Arab stances in international circles, particularly at the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Participants at the opening meeting reviewed a report submitted by Mahmud Barakat, director-general of the Authority. He noted various projects the authority is supervising in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy.

## Islamic Affairs

### Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 19 Jul

*NC2507115294*

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 19 July issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that may pertain to political Islamic issues.

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## FIRST CONFERENCE FOR ISLAMIC CALL REPORTED

Pages 1 and 3 carry two related reports on the First Conference for Islamic Call held under the patronage of Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and chaired by al-Azhar's Grand Imam Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq. The 250-word report on page 1 cites speeches by Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi, who asked the preachers to discuss basic Islamic issues; Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub; and Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, who said "Egypt represents Islamic and ideological moderation in everything." The 2,000-word page 3 report provides a detailed account of the conference proceedings and speeches by the Islamic preachers and imams who attended the conference. They "affirmed that the Islamic nation is going through difficult circumstances due to the rabid campaigns against Islam and the Muslims. These new and dangerous challenges need to be confronted." Shaykh al-Sha'rawi's speech is cited in greater detail. He cautions against mixing up two opposing things such as day and night and male and female. "We need to define the meaning of masculinity and femininity," he notes.

## OFFICIAL WARNS AGAINST SPREAD OF VIDEO GAMES

Page 1 also carries a 100-word report, further detailed on page 17, of a warning by Major General Sami Isma'il, director of the General Vice Squad Department, "that the spread of 'video games' threatens the Egyptian family and the health of children and young people. He said that the spread of these amusement arcades harms the interests of people because they are a meeting point for youths and a root for many quarrels as a result of the betting."

## ISRAELI CENTER REQUESTS GRANTS FOR SCIENCE STUDENTS

A 30-word report on page 1 notes that "the Israeli Cultural Center in Cairo submitted a request to Cairo University for grants for a number of Israeli students to study at the School of Sciences."

## COLUMN PRAISES NONGOVERNMENTAL SHAYKHS' CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Samir Rajab comments in his 500-word "Rightfully I Say" column on page 1 on the preachers' conference. He writes: "Personally, I am optimistic that a new generation of preachers will soon emerge in the arena." He maintains that today's preachers have been isolated from the actual problems of society, for which reason they were invaded by "alien extremist ideologies." He praises Awqaf Minister Mahjub's move to convene the preachers' conference and invite shaykhs Muhammad al-Ghazali and Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi, who are not categorized as "government shaykhs." "These two shaykhs," he notes, "clarified from the outset that diverting religion from its correct course, attempts by one group to denounce another, and weakening the role of women are all things that distort the reputation of our valuable religion. It is our duty to cooperate and confront the trouble-makers." He concludes that preachers have no excuse anymore to justify the diversion of some youths and the trading in the correct concepts of religion. Rajab warns that the preachers will be held responsible.

## REQUEST FOR KORAN TELEVISION CHANNEL OPPOSED

Page 2 carries a 600-word report on the 14th annual conference of the Modern Education League in conjunction with the 'Ayn Shams College of Education under the headline 'Education and Information.' The highlight of the conference was that: "The participants opposed the proposal submitted by Dr. Jabir Mahmud Tulbah, professor at al-Mansurah Education College, to establish a television channel for the Koran and religious awareness programs." The report criticizes the conference for not properly addressing the topics under discussion. It also notes the recommendations of the conference.

## 'AQIDATI'S ULEMA CARAVAN ANSWERS RELIGIOUS QUERIES

Pages 4 and 5 carry a 4,000-word report on the topics 'AQIDATI's ulema caravan in al-Sharqiyah governorate addressed, among which were the duties of the mosque, the qualifications of an Islamic preacher, and the use of the Koran to exorcise evil spirits.

## WRITER CLAIMS MUSLIMS HARM IMAGE OF ISLAM IN WEST

Basyuni al-Halawani writes his 500-word "In All Frankness" column on the image of Islam in the West. He notes that during his two-week stay in London, he met many Europeans who had converted to Islam and were faithfully abiding by its laws. On the other hand, he met many Arab Muslim youths who were harming the image of the religion by gambling, drinking, visiting night clubs, etc. He deduces from his observations in London that Islam in the West lacks "leadership." He concludes:

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"The crisis for Islam now is a crisis of behavior and God shall not forgive the Muslims for the harm they have done to their religion as a result of their behavior."

### HUMAN RIGHTS INTRINSIC TO ISLAM BEFORE WEST

Page 10 publishes a lengthy report entitled "The Prophet's Human Rights Declaration" in which the writer, Mu'min al-Habba', maintains that, although the UN issued its human rights declaration in 1948 when Western society needed it more than ever before, Prophet Muhammad did so during the birth of Islam when the rest of the world was shrouded in darkness.

### BANK FOR VEINS: FOR OR AGAINST?

Muhammad al-Abnudi, Musa Hal, and Mahmud 'Ushub investigate the religious legality of a draft law on a bank for veins. They present their findings in the form of the opinions of various legislators, doctors, and imams on this topic in a 3,000-word report on page 14. Some claim that there is a dire need for such a bank, while others maintain that it is illegal in Islam to donate organs that are not one's property in the first place. Most prominently, Mufti of the Republic Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi concludes that, "If trustworthy physicians believe setting up a bank for veins is medically beneficial, can offer a humanitarian service, and does not contradict the morality and laws of Islam, then there is no objection to it from the shari'ah point of view."

### WRITER WANTS ISLAMIC CONFERENCES TO CONVENE IN WESTERN COUNTRIES

'Ali Faruq's 300-word article on page 19 mocks the "five star Islamic conferences" that are held in Islamic countries, for which ulemas and preachers gather from the five continents and who are housed in five-star hotels. He advocates Shaykh al-Sha'rawi's opinion that these conferences should be held in Western countries to convey the true and correct image of Islam and have a greater impact.

### MACEDONIA'S MUSLIM COMMUNITY LEADER INTERVIEWED

Page 20 carries a 5,000-word interview with the leader of the Islamic community in Macedonia, Shaykh Sulayman Rahbi, who calls on "the Islamic countries to help the Muslims of Macedonia before it is too late."

### MUSLIMS IN AMERICA NEED FUNDING, PREACHERS

'Adil Dayf in his 200-word column "Muslims in America" carried on page 20 says that these Muslims suffer from a shortage of Korans, lack of funding, and not enough preachers and imams. They also need to increase their visits and contacts with Muslims elsewhere.

### COLUMN DEMANDS IMPLEMENTATION OF ULEMA CONFERENCE DECISIONS

Al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf's 600-word column "A Call to Reason" on the back page comments on the role of preachers and ulemas in the country. He notes: "It is the duty of the preachers and ulemas, not only inside the conference but at all times, to reveal the true face of Islam by considering it the religion of action, science, progress, and humanitarianism to realize the noble objectives of God's representation on earth." "Otherwise," 'Abd-al-Ra'uf concludes, "whatever is deliberated in the conference will turn into mountains of previous talk that has not changed any reality, improved any situation, or fought any deviant thinking."

## Palestinian Affairs

### Sha'th Demands U.S. Intervene Over Border Problems

*LD2207185494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, at the end of the Palestinian-Israeli round of talks in Cairo, said that the United States, being the main sponsor of the peace process, is responsible for offering help toward solving the pending problems.

Dr. Sha'th demanded Washington's intervention to prevent the closure of the border crossings. He explained in remarks to the press that any problem can be solved in accordance with the specific measures agreed upon in the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, and are within the competence of the joint committees and the Joint Liaison Committee, which has not met for a long time.

Warren Christopher [words indistinct] as a part of his trip to finalize the peace process.

He will be informed of several inquiries regarding certain issues including the delay in the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, the delay in handing over the border crossing points and the safe corridor, the issue of POWs and prisoners, and Israel's insistence on closing the borders whenever a problem occurs, in addition to Israel's refusal, so far, to allow at least 30,000 workers from Gaza to enter Israel for work, in accordance with what has been agreed with the donor countries.

Nabil Sha'th criticized the way in which the World Bank is dealing with the NPA, as it has only transferred $5 million to the self-rule authority, a sum well below what the world bank promised.

Sha'th described the bilateral talks due to resume in Cairo next Monday [25 July] as having witnessed some progress, despite Israel's insistence on not giving the Palestinians real authority in some spheres such as education, health services, and social, administrative, and financial affairs. He said that if there is going to be no real authority in these areas, it would then be better to go back to the the transitional agreement.

He said that the Israeli side wants to dominate all aspects of civilian authority, in contravention of the Declaration of Principles Agreement and the spirit of the peace process.

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## PNA Convenes, Discusses 100-Day 'Master Plan'

### 'Arafat Chairs Session

*JN2307191394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat this evening chaired a session of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], devoted to a debate of a three-point master plan to meet the PNA's needs for the next 100 days.

The plan envisages an expansion of the border crossings between the PNA-controlled Gaza Strip and Israel to facilitate the traffic of Palestinian labor. It also calls for seeking further permits for Palestinians to work in Israel, and finding jobs for some 10,000 Palestinian workers in Gaza.

The government also discussed the Erez crossing's bloody incidents, the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Gaza visit, and the aid promised the PNA by donor nations.

### International Aid Discussed

*NC2407080894 Paris AFP in English 0258 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 24 (AFP)—The failure of the international community to make good its pledges of aid dominated a meeting Saturday [23 July] of the two-month-old Palestinian Authority, Palestinian sources said.

Nabil Sha'th, the minister of international cooperation in what amounts to a Palestinian cabinet for the Gaza Strip and Jericho, told a news conference the meeting had discussed at length the obstacles to the promised delivery of international aid.

So far only 47.5 million dollars out of the 720 million dollars pledged for 1994 have been handed over since the Palestinian Authority got off the ground in May, though the United States has promised 500 million dollars over a five-year period.

Visiting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasir 'Arafat here last Thursday [21 July] he would do his utmost to accelerate the payments. One of Christopher's team members, Joan Spero, under secretary for economic affairs, stayed on in Gaza to "work with the Palestinians to set up mechanisms and an agenda for speeding up aid payments," Sha'th said.

Sha'th also said the question of Jerusalem, or al-Quds as it is known to the Moslem world, had figured high on Saturday's agenda.

Authority member Faysal al-Husayni told a press conference Friday in Arab east Jerusalem that Israel should immediately enter into negotiations on the city's future status. Palestinians want Jerusalem to be the capital of a future Palestinian state.

'Arafat chaired Saturday's meeting, in the seafront offices of Palestinian radio, the Palestinian Authority's temporary base.

### Appointments Made

*JN2407083394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] The Palestinian National Authority [PNA] held intensive meetings yesterday under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat. All PNA members attended the meeting.

In statements after the meeting, Economy Minister Ahmad Quray' said the PNA discussed future plans, the issue of Jerusalem, the talks with the Israeli side, and spreading the PNA's powers to the rest of the occupied territory.

The PNA endorsed, during its meeting yesterday, a series of appointments. Dr. 'Atif 'Alawinah has been appointed the director general of customs and taxes; Dr. Amin Haddad has been appointed the director general of communications; and Samir Hulaylah the director general of trade.

### Sha'th Comments on Meeting

*NC2407123194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Gaza, 24 Jul (MENA)—The meeting of the Palestinian National Authority under President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday, which lasted for a whole day, is an indication that the authority is assuming its full responsibilities just one month after its formation and amid extremely difficult conditions where the economy is in a shambles, the infrastructure is destroyed, and the administrative and organizational processes are still unfinished.

The Palestinian Authority discussed for the first time all the issues related to running the authority's affairs. Each minister reviewed the conditions in his ministry, particularly in the fields of health, education, communications, post, social affairs, and the problems facing the families of martyrs and detainees.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international relations, the only member of the Palestinian Authority who commented on the 10-hour meeting, has stated that the conferees discussed the results of the Cairo talks and the meeting of the Joint Economic Committee that will take place later today in Jericho.

In his remarks to MENA, Dr. Sha'th noted that the meeting had also discussed issues related to the World Bank, how to accelerate the delivery of funds allocated for the self-rule areas, relations with the donor states, the aftermath of the Erez incident, what needs to be done to resolve the workers' problems, housing problems, and the rent laws proposed in order to encourage the construction of a large number of homes. He added that considerable time was devoted to discussing the Jerusalem issue.

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Dr. Sha'th noted that an agreement has been concluded with the European Union to provide prefabricated military barracks to accommodate the 7,000-strong Palestinian force.

On the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Gaza as part of his recent Middle East tour, Sha'th said that this had been discussed during the meeting. He added: Joan Spero, U.S. under secretary of state for economic affairs, accompanied by a U.S. economic team, spent two hours with us after Christopher left Gaza. She obtained a list of the things that need to be prepared in order to expedite the payment of the delayed funds, he added. Sha'th added: So far, we have received only $5 million [figure as heard] from the donor states. This problem arose because of the complications imposed by the World Bank, but we must learn how to deal with these complications, he added. Sha'th noted that this subject was discussed in yesterday's meeting to work out a framework for expediting the payment of these funds, particularly since the U.S. under secretary and her economic team tried to cooperate with us to eliminate these obstacles. Sha'th pointed out that there are ways to resolve the financial difficulty facing the Palestinian Authority other than financial aid, namely, self-reliance. He explained that this could be accomplished by collecting the taxes that are in arrears, creating fields for voluntary work, and activating the work of the Economy Ministry by issuing Palestinian export and import licenses, thus keeping Israel from preventing us from exporting our products, particularly since Israel is now trying to monopolize imports through a team of Israeli agents, not Palestinian agents. This, he added, could save us much money and help us regain the VAT [value-added tax] and customs duties, which Israel is now collecting.

On Arab aid to the Palestinian Authority, Sha'th said that some progress had been made following President 'Arafat's recent trip to Saudi Arabia, during which Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz promised to provide funds for Jerusalem, set up an Islamic cultural center in Gaza, send coast guard boats to the Palestinian navy, and pay part of the salary of Palestinian policemen.

### Qaddumi Meets With Hawatimah in Syria

*JN2407095894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has asserted the need to adhere to the PLO, rejecting its fragmentation and liquidation. This came during a meeting in Damascus yesterday with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. Qaddumi noted that there is an attempt to confiscate the resolutions of international legitimacy and to ignore the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and repatriation.

Nayif Hawatimah called on the Fatah Movement and the Palestinian factions to elect a new national council from inside and outside the occupied territory to lay down denominators for the Palestinian factions based on the right to self-determination, establishment of a state, and repatriation.

It is noteworthy that the DFLP is one of the factions opposing the Oslo and Cairo accords.

### Said To Set Up Anti-'Arafat Front

*NC2407113394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, is seeking to form a new Palestinian front opposed to Yasir 'Arafat.

Following his meeting in Damascus with Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Abu-'Ali Mustafa, the second man in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Qaddumi said that he will not join any of the self-rule bodies 'Arafat is now establishing in occupied Gaza and Jericho in accordance with the self-rule agreement with Israel.

The Lebanese paper AL-DIYAR publishes on its front page today a report from Damascus saying that Qaddumi intends to hold contacts with Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, and Bassam al-Shak'ah, former mayor of Nabulus and one of the prominent West Bank leaders dismissed by the Israeli occupation forces.

Qaddumi voiced his opposition to the self-rule formula and said that he is now working to restore cohesiveness to the PLO, which is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. Qaddumi is proposing to a number of Damascus-based Palestinian organizations opposed to 'Arafat's ideas that they for develop their activities so as to deal with the situation in occupied Palestine and strengthen the intifadah there.

AL-DIYAR adds that Qaddumi, who refused to sign the 13 September 1993 and 4 May 1994 agreements between Israel and Yasir 'Arafat in Washington and Cairo, had met with U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross at the request of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and then met with the Russian charge d'affaires in Damascus. Diplomatic circles say that the U.S. administration's effort to contact Qaddumi directly shows that Washington takes seriously the Palestinian opposition and the recent endeavors begun in Damascus.

### Hardliners Oppose 'Arafat's Choice of Council Head

*NC2307210594 Paris AFP in English 1853 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 23 (AFP)—Four Palestinian opposition groups on Saturday [23 July] called for the resignation of 'Awn al-Shawwa, chosen by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat to form a municipal council in Gaza.

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They said he should step down in order to "preserve national unity."

In a statement issued Saturday, the Islamic Resistance Movement HAMAS, the Democratic and People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP and PFLP) and Islamic Jihad called on al-Shawwa "not to play the game of Palestinian autonomy and to resign."

Al-Shawwa was chosen last week to form the municipal council. His cousin Mansur al-Shawwa, who was originally chosen, stepped down after 'Arafat rejected his proposed list of council members, who included fundamentalist opponents of the Palestinian self-rule accord.

The statement said that "Palestinians will not remain indifferent if al-Shawwa continues to play along with the authority and ignore the positions of the diverse movements" among Palestinians. The four organisations are opposed to the Israeli-PLO accord of May 4 which launched self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Al-Shawwa told reporters he was "continuing consultations" to form a municipal council and hoped that "diverse Palestinian movements will be represented."

Meanwhile, Palestinian "economy" minister Ahmad Quray' said he expected funds pledged by international donors to launch Palestinian self-rule to be released soon. Speaking to reporters after a meeting of the new Palestinian Authority, chaired by 'Arafat, Quray' said: "We have contacted the donor countries and World Bank and we expect the problem of funds to be resolved soon."

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher told 'Arafat in Gaza Thursday he would do all he could to speed up the release of international aid for the Palestinians. Since May 4 the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho have received only 47.5 million dollars out of the 720 million pledged for 1994. The United States pledged 500 million over five years.

### Agreement Reached on Return of Some PFLP Members

*NC2407180194 Paris AFP in English 1741 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Amman, July 24 (AFP)—Members of a Palestinian group which rejects the autonomy deal with Israel will enter the self-rule areas on Monday [25 July], an official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said here Sunday.

"Israel has agreed to the return of 24 out of a 150-name (PFLP) list given to (PLO leader Yasir) 'Arafat," Majid 'Abd-al-Hadi told AFP.

The official, himself among the returnees, said 20 members of the Damascus-based PFLP would cross to Gaza from the Egyptian border town of Rafah and the other four to Jericho from Jordan.

But the radical group will keep up its opposition to the self-rule deal, said 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, the Amman-based PFLP representative in the PLO's executive committee.

### PFLP Reacts to Nasr Yusuf Remarks on Gaza Assailants

*JN2207172194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has asserted that the mission assigned to the Palestinian police force is to prevent clashes with occupation troops, and to perform the task Israel has failed to perform; namely, to halt operations by Palestinian revolutionaries.

In a press statement today, the PFLP spokesman added that the statements made by Major General Nasr Yusuf, Palestinian police force commander, in which he said that he would pursue those who carried out a heroic operation that resulted in the killing of an Israeli officer the day before yesterday, could lay the grounds for a civil war Israel seeks to foment in the occupied homeland.

The PFLP urged Maj. Gen. Nasr to demand Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories instead of making threats against those struggling to end the occupation of their lands.

### Labor 'Minister' on Jordan Ties, Peace, Elections

*NC2407111994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Gaza, 24 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Samir Ghawshah, minister of labor in the Palestinian National Authority, has said the Palestinian Authority welcomes the progress in negotiations on the Jordanian track, because such progress is bound to advance the peace process as long as it is in the context of efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just peace.

In statements to MENA's correspondent today he said the two nations will decide of their own free will on the important future relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian people, whether in a future confederation or federation.

On the stumbling negotiations on the Syrian track, he said when talks on any track falter it affects the overall negotiations, adding that the Syrian brothers' proposals deal with rights because they stress a comprehensive withdrawal in return for comprehensive peace.

Regarding the preparations for municipal and general elections, he said arrangements were discussed at the National Authority Council meeting chaired by President 'Arafat last night. He added that there are some issues and obstacles facing the election process, such as the necessity first to take a social survey and census, in addition to the obstacles created by Israel. But, he said, we are determined to press ahead and hold free, fair

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elections and implement the agreement leading to Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories.

l of 'Palestinian People'

*TA2207181194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Interview with Palestinian National Authority member Faysal al-Husayni by correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem in Jerusalem on 22 July—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] Some reports say that after 25 July, following the meeting between Rabin and King Husayn, Jordan will renew its influence in the West Bank. As a Palestinian, what is your stance toward these reports?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that this depends on the signatures between us and Israel in Cairo and before that in Oslo and Washington. Is this ink on paper? Does Israel respect itself as a state? Do Israel's representatives respect their signatures or not? If they respect their signatures, this is an internal Palestinian affair and will be discussed with the Palestinians. If they do not want to respect such a signature, who can guarantee King Husayn that they will respect their signature later?

[Ben-Menahem] But do you not entertain any fears that this rapprochement between Israel and Jordan will be at your expense?

[Al-Husayni] We have no fears at all from the achievement of agreement and progress of the peace process. We are absolutely not afraid from the Jordanian side, but Israel must make up its mind, respect its signature and positions, and act according to the requirements of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you accept, for example, that Jordan maintains control over the holy sites in Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] Let this issue be discussed between us and Jordan. It is a Palestinian-Jordanian matter and Israel has no connection to it.

[Ben-Menahem] But what is your stance regarding this idea?

[Al-Husayni] As I told you, this is a Palestinian-Jordanian matter. Jordan has a role, which it fulfilled. We respect and appreciate this role. It fulfilled it in the Palestinian people's capital. God willing, in the future we shall forge ahead toward a confederation with Jordan with the two peoples' consent, as we expect. This will be followed, God willing, with further steps....

[Ben-Menahem, interrupting] Confederation on the basis of two independent states.

[Al-Husayni] Yes, two independent states. Later, this might develop into a one-state federation. At that time there will be no differences between us and Jordan, and there should be no differences. We are moving toward a unifying direction with Jordan. Consequently, there is no need to raise such points. Things that cannot be solved today will be solved tomorrow.

[Ben-Menahem] But when President 'Arafat says that he will extend an invitation to King Husayn to visit the Temple Mount with him, this means that you too have control over it?

[Al-Husayni] As I told you, Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian people before being capital of a Palestinian state.

## 'Abbas on Jerusalem, Settlements, Refugees

*JN2307155194 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 16 Jul 94 p 23*

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas by correspondent Haytham Shalabi in Rabat; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Shalabi] 'Arafat was said to have decided to go to Gaza and Jericho, having received positive signals from Washington. What were these signals?

['Abbas] In the middle of debating 'Arafat's return to the homeland, we decided to send a Palestinian delegation to Washington to ascertain whether the Americans might show some flexibility over funds promised for the Palestinian National Authority. Brother Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] was sent to Washington. From there he called to report a positive response by the U.S. Administration. Then Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] made the decision to return to Palestine. [passage omitted]

[Shalabi] The redeployment of the Israeli occupation troops in the West Bank will feature on the agenda of the interim stage negotiations. What is your negotiating postion on the matter?

['Abbas] We have an understanding with Israel that the Israeli troops redeploy in selected sites and that Palestinian police take up positions throughout the Palestinian cities and populated localities. There is no problem there. The delayed redeployment of Israeli troops is attributuble to the problematic start of the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli accord. In a month or two the Israeli troops will be repositioned and then we will begin the election process. [passage omitted]

[Shalabi] Israel is adamant that Jerusalem is its capital. The Palestinians, on the other hand, are pursuing a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. What are your negotiating tactics to reconcile the two postions?

['Abbas] Israel officially annexed Jerusalem—indeed the Jerusalem district that makes up 15 percent of the entire West Bank area. It extends from the north of Bethlehem to the south of Ramallah and east of al-Khan al-Ahmar. Israel considers the annexation irreversible and non-negotiable. The same applies to the Syrian Golan Heights. Israel's declared preparedness to pull out from the Golan Heights and negotiate over Jerusalem means a

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reopening of the Jerusalem file and going back on the annexation. The declaration of principles agreement implies that, God willing, the Palestinian argument will prevail. In other words, the population of Jerusalem will contest the autonomy elections. According to a published letter, the Jerusalem social, economic, and religious institute must be accorded Israeli protection.

These signs show that a solution should be found for Jerusalem. We believe that Israel will inevitably withdraw from Jerusalem. We do not object that the city remains undivided. We also do not object that the city remains as it is, with its Jewish and Arab parts. The United States and the international community fully support us on this. In my opinion, the determination of Jerusalem's destiny needs patience and struggle to attain the desired results.

[Shalabi] Does this mean Jerusalem will be under a joint Israeli-Palestinian administration?

['Abbas] Jerusalem will have a joint municipality and will be two capitals. Eastern Arab Jerusalem will be the capital of Palestine, and Western Arab Jerusalem will be the capital of the Israelis, if they so wish.

[Shalabi] How do you conceive a solution to the issue of settlements which is a difficult problem on the Palestinian-Israeli agenda of negotiations?

['Abbas] We want the settlements to remain as they are but the settlers should leave. We categorically reject that the settlers remain on Palestinian soil that was occupied in 1967. This is Palestinian stand. Of course, if the Israelis want to resort to the method they used in Yamit (the settlement they blew up before withdrawing from Egyptian territory), they are free to do so. But, the best and the humanitarian solution is to leave them as they are and to receive compensation for them. The Israeli stand on the issue of settlements is not an intransigent one. Rabin says there is a difference between security and political settlements. This shows that his stand is somewhat flexible when he compares political settlements, which he does not need and which have no value, and settlements for security reasons, which he believes would help safeguard Israel's security and borders. [passage omitted]

[Shalabi] What about the settlement of the refugee problem? Will it be settled on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 194?

['Abbas] First of all, I would like to clear an ambiguous point on the refugee problem. 'Arafat and Rabin agreed to form a four- member committee to discuss the issue of the displaced in Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel. The displaced are those who until 1967 were officially registered in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They number not less than 700,000. Their problem will be discussed in the four-member committee to see whether they can return to the homeland. These have nothing to do with the 1948 refugees. With respect to the issue of refugees, we have international Resolution 194 and Resolution 242 which calls for a just solution to this problem. This just solution exists only in Resolution 194 and provides for compensating those who do not wish to return. According to the terms of reference on whose basis we went to Madrid, the refugee issue will be discussed in the multilateral and bilateral talks. The issue was discussed in detail in the multilaterals, and Resolution 194 was positively received by the world countries, including the United States with respect to implementing it although Israel refuses to implement it.

Discussing the implementation of the international resolution began at the Ottawa, Oslo, and Tunis negotiations. We are discussing this issue with Israel. We know that the situation is difficult and that Israel would never accept the return of three million people. This issue, however, is meant to assert that it is the right of every Palestinian to return to his home if he declines compensation. The basis is return, and if some people do not want to return, then they are entitled to compensation. I think the issue will take a long time and extended negotiations. However, the Palestinian state must accommodate the brother refugees by giving them a Palestinian identity and taking care of them politically, socially, and economically. This will not affect their legal status and rights because giving them a Palestinian identity would give them reassurance and would reassure the countries that host them that they will not stay in these countries. [passage omitted]

[Shalabi] With the launching of the Palestinian National Authority, how are you going to deal with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which has repeatedly announced that it will continue armed struggle against Israel?

['Abbas] We want to build our homeland. We think that Hamas will be making a mistake if it does anything to obstruct this process. We will deal with the Hamas members as Palestinian citizens. The one who has not been to the West Bank and Gaza does not know the meaning of our intention to build a homeland. He does not know that there are 10-year-old boys who have never been to school. He does not know that universities have been closed for six years, and that trade is paralyzed. Therefore, the people inside Palestine, including the Hamas Movement, are enthusiastic about the Palestinian authority and are willing to adhere to it and work within its framework. Therefore, we should give ourselves a chance to build the homeland. Afterward, it is the right of Hamas to think that the Palestinian state is farther than the West Bank and Gaza and to express its view, exactly like the opposition adopted by the Israeli Likud Party, by refusing to give the Palestinian people their rights. It is clear that the Palestinian people are now one. The people inside the occupied territories are different from those who live abroad, because they live the bitterness of their realities, while those who live abroad do not see these realities and deal only with slogans. [passage omitted]

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[Shalabi] You have made numerous contacts with the Israelis. Do you think the Rabin government is serious about the peace process?

['Abbas] I think the Rabin government is truly serious about the peace process because achieving peace and the Palestinians getting their rights is in the interest of the Israelis. This will serve Israel's security. In fact, the Israelis will find that the establishment of a Palestinian state is in their interest as well. [passage omitted]

### Thousands Attend Antipeace Rally in Gaza

*TA2407101994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 94 p 2*

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A border policeman was lightly wounded yesterday by a rock thrown by Arab youths in Bethlehem. Border policemen responded by firing rubber bullets and tear gas at the youths, but no casualties were reported.

Approximately 7,000 Palestinians gathered in Gaza's al-Yarmuk soccer stadium Friday [22 July] to hear speakers denounce the PLO-Israel accord.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Muhsin Abu-'Aytah read out the names of 10 Palestinians killed since the autonomy began in May, some, he claimed, by Israelis and some by the Palestinian Police. [passage omitted]

Demonstrators burned US and Israeli flags, but the turnout of 7,000 was far less than the 35,000 organizers had anticipated, according to news agencies.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 24 July carries an article on page A4 by 'Amira Hess reporting that the al-Yarmuk rally "was attended by approximately 15,000 people." "The rally was organized by Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Palestinian People's Party." Hess adds that "one of the rally speakers was Fatah official Hisham 'Abd-al-Razzaq, who said that Fatah is using the political path to pursue the struggle against the occupation and for national rights."]

### 'Arafat Cable to Saddam Notes Fight for Independence

*TA2407110694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Jul 94 p 14*

[Report by David Regev]

[Excerpt] Even after settling in Gaza and signing a peace agreement with Israel, Yasir 'Arafat still maintains warm ties with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Yesterday 'Arafat sent Saddam Husayn a wire congratulating him on the Iraqi Independence Day. 'Arafat wrote: "The Palestinian people will continue its fight for its land until a Palestinian state is established, with Jerusalem as its capital."

'Arafat concluded his message by saying that he hopes Saddam Husayn will continue to support him and the Palestinian people's struggle. [passage omitted]

### 'Arafat Asked To Open 'Islamic Bank' in Autonomous Areas

*TA2407122294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat met this morning in the Gaza Strip with all the members of the Chambers of Commerce in the territories. At the meeting, 'Arafat spoke about the economic difficulties faced by the Palestinian people and established a committee, made up of members of the chambers of commerce, in order to plan the economic future of the residents of the territories.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in the course of the meeting, the heads of two chambers of commerce in Ramallah and Hebron, which are affiliated with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], submitted a request to open an Islamic bank. 'Arafat replied that he would decide witin several days whether to authorize the opening of such a bank in the autonomous areas.

### 'Arafat Receives Businessmen From Ramallah, al-Birah

*JN2407090494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] During a meeting with businessmen from Ramallah and al-Birah yesterday, President Yasir 'Arafat called for an end to strikes. Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said: Palestinians are capable of building a homeland of which we will be proud.

Addressing the businessmen, who came to welcome him, President 'Arafat said that he does not need a World Bank, but a national bank, noting the importance of self-reliance in building the national economy. President 'Arafat called on the businessmen to form follow-up committees to discuss economic developments.

### Palestinian Killed in Hablah Village

*JN2407094194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Husni Dhib, from Hablah Village, Qalqilyah District, was shot dead last night as he was standing outside his uncle's house in the village.

Eyewitnesses told Voice of Palestine an armed man approached Dhib and shot him with a pistol. The assailant took Dhib's gun before fleeing the scene. A unit of occupation soldiers arrived at the scene and started searches in the village.

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## Police Force Competence Reviewed

*TA2207160894 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 22 Jun 94 pp 14, 15*

[Article by Nadav Ha'etzni: "The Palestinian Police—Nothing To Write Home About"]

[Text] The defense establishment's top echelon had a shock last Sunday [17 July]. The riots at the Erez checkpoint, and particularly the fact that many of the Palestinian soldiers joined the rioters, severely damaged the delicate fabric of trust which had begun to emerge between the military on both sides.

The unfolding of Sunday's events has been reported at length. It aroused serious questions about the prospects of the relations with the Palestinian forces. Not only did the latter fail their first serious test, but it turns out that too many of them joined the rioters instead of enforcing order.

The shock was particularly severe in light of recent optimistic assessments by senior Israeli officers, whereby "the Palestinian police are doing an excellent job." Apparently, not everybody was surprised. Some people had been pointing to a series of incidents indicative of what might lie in store.

For example, threats at gunpoint became an everyday affair after the agreement went into effect. Palestinian soldiers cock their rifles and stick them in the face of Israelis. The main victims are Israeli soldiers in the joint patrols in Gaza, who complain about daily abuses. Israeli officers recently warned that the next time a gun is pointed at them they will open fire. Moreover, initial reports about friendship emerging between soldiers in the joint patrols have proven false.

Another example is the stopping of Israeli cars at roadblocks. The Palestinian police erect roadblocks in roads over which they have no authority, such as the road leading to the settlement of Netzarim. Anybody trying to drive past it encounters the barrel of a gun.

As may be recalled, Major General Doron Almog went through a similar experience at a Palestinian roadblock, in a photographed incident which has gone down in the annals of history. The Palestinian officer at the roadblock did not allow Almog to pass, even when his commander threatened to throw him in jail. This is a landmark incident, because in spite of the pompous promises that followed, no measures were taken against the perpetrating officer.

This week, too, the Palestinians promised to conduct an investigation and bring the shooting soldiers to trial. However, it emerges from a conversation with General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian forces in Gaza and Jericho, that they do not intend to take any punitive measures this time either.

Defense sources claim that "most of our officers are in the dark about the competence and willingness of the Palestinians. They meet them and raise demands. The Palestinians nod their heads in consent because they feel uncomfortable saying no, but then they do nothing. Because we decided the Palestinians should play a certain role in our security concept, we ignore the fact that they do not want or are incapable of doing it."

Such was the case on the eve of the Erez events. The Israeli officers held a meeting with their counterparts and urged them to deploy in such a way as to prevent possible riots. Both sides had intelligence information that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was planning to stage a provocation at the checkpoint. The Palestinians nodded, but as it turned out a few hours later, did nothing at all.

This is not the first time such a phenomenon happens. As may be recalled, a big crisis occurred in early June when the first lifers were released into Jericho. When the buses carrying them arrived in the city, it turned out that the Palestinians were not prepared to honor the commitment of General Ziyad al-Atrash, head of the Palestinian liaison committee, who promised that the murderers would not be allowed to leave the city. His colleagues, however, claimed he had no authority to make such a promise and, what is more, he had been fired from his job. It turns out that Brigadier General Yomtov Sami', head of the Israeli liaison committee, knew the agreement might not be honored, but nevertheless decided to go ahead and discuss the proceedings of the release. What is clear is that the accords reached with al-Atrash were worthless. Sunday's events prove this was not the last time Israelis relied on dubious accords with the Palestinians.

One of the problems is the startling insistence on calling the Palestinian forces a "police." They hardly merit the title of army, never mind that they do not even presume to be a police. They are a group of military troops gathered from all over the Arab world. To this day, most of the soldiers have not trained in police work or been issued the proper equipment. They have no rubber bullets, tear gas, clubs, or shields, just the Kalashnikov on their shoulders. Most of the troops did not receive clear guidelines on how to handle a demonstration, to cite just one example.

The Palestinian forces in Gaza consist of four brigades: 'Ayn Jallud, Badr, Hittin, and al-Yarmuk. Most of the soldiers in Jericho come from the al-Aqsa Brigade. Their level of proficiency varies. The al-Aqsa soldiers were trained in Iraq by Saddam Husayn's army and are considered good soldiers. The 'Ayn Jallud soldiers stationed in Egypt hardly moved a finger all day, and the Badr soldiers in Jordan underwent very little training. By the way, Gazans consider the 'Ayn Jallud soldiers violent, rude, and corrupt—and they were the ones manning the Erez checkpoint on Sunday morning. The Badr soldiers are the most popular. There are big gaps in the mentality of the soldiers, in accordance with their country of origin, which also creates a certain estrangement between them and the majority of the population.

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Antagonism, occasionally verging on hatred, prevails among the top brass. Ostensibly, Gen. Yusuf is the commander of all the security troops, both in Gaza and in Jericho. However, his colleague al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr in Jericho, does not recognize his authority and only accepts 'Arafat's orders. The commander of the troops in Gaza is 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayirah. He also takes his orders directly from Arafat, but partially submits to Yusuf's authority. There are troubles also in the Liaison Committee: Gen. al-Atrash was unseated and reinstated a week ago.

The heads of the security apparatus, such as Jibril al-Rujub in Jericho and Muhammad Dahlan and Khalid al-Hindi in Gaza, try to act independently. There have been quite a few juicy confrontations, such as between al-Hajj Isma'il and al-Rujub. Of course, this affects relations with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers who must know what is to be agreed with whom.

A certain measure of trust was built with some senior officers, but there is increasing hostility toward Israel and the agreement in the lower ranks. From my conversations with Palestinian soldiers, it emerges that most of them still believe that the Gaza-Jericho Agreement will lead to a Palestinian state also in Jaffa and the Galilee. They consider themselves freedom fighters, definitely not policemen. The have never ceased vowing "to liberate all of Palestine."

Senior Palestinian officers used similar language when they arrived in the area. For example, al-Hajj Isma'il repeatedly told his Israeli counterparts: "Let us talk about the real important issues: the relations between our Jaffa and your Tel Aviv; forget the small potatoes." He recently toned down his pronouncements. Some Israelis see it as a sign that he is adapting, while others think he has adopted a different tactic.

The point is that the reality the Palestinian forces found themselves drove them to a serious identity crisis, whose signs were evident at the Erez checkpoint. In the beginning some of the soldiers confronted the rioters, but then they turned a blind eye, until finally many of them joined the rioters.

When they arrived in the area the Palestinian soldiers were hailed as heroes symbolizing national independence. The locals invited them home, they were fed and entertained for free, and the stories of their heroic experiences in Lebanon and Iraq were avidly received. As a result, the police authorities in Jericho became an address for the grievances of people from all over the territories. People from Bethlehem, Nabulus, and Janin began airing their troubles before al-Rujub's and al-Hajj's men. Consequently, the police authorities in Janin started extending their rule throughout Judaea and Samaria, and even reached Jerusalem. These days they are handling the complaints of residents of the Jabal al-Mukabar and 'Isawiyah neighborhoods in Jerusalem.

However, the trust and hope turned into disappointment with many of them. It soon turned out that the "policemen" were not properly equipped and that kept demanding free meals and gasoline from the locals. Hamas papers even began calling them "the army of beggars." At the same time, they began enforcing their authority by using excessive force, and actually became military rulers. Officers were appointed in charge of the municipalities and the civilian offices in Jericho and Khan Yunus. The officer in charge of Jericho municipality even began issuing orders on the moral conduct of men and women. In Gaza, the police began arresting suspected drug dealers. Many officers drove stolen Israeli cars and proved to be corrupt in other ways.

Meanwhile, testimonies began accumulating about the exaggerated use of force. First there was the report about Farid Abu-Jarju', who was tortured to death in Gaza's prison. Then stories spread about the tough treatment of Palestinian journalists, who were being required "to evince national responsibility," were receiving threats, and beaten up.

Last week there were accusations in the East Jerusalem press about the beating of a Gazan lawyer named Jibril Daqqi. The latter was visiting clients held under arrest in Khan Yunus and was beaten so badly by four police officers that he had to be hospitalized.

The biggest problem is that to this day the autonomy operates without a law, in a sort of emergency military regime. So much so, that some people have begun talking about a new occupation, about a Palestinian occupation. Dr. Anis al-Qasim, chairman of the Palestinian Authority's constitution committee, wrote in an East Jerusalem paper this week: "Citizens perceive the policeman as someone whose job is to serve the authorities and oppress the people. In most instances, the police are a tool for oppression and violation of rights. We fear for the rule of law."

Sunday's events gave us pause to make an interim assessment of the performance of the Palestinian army on the issue that is dearest to Israel: upholding security. After all, in accordance with the agreements, the Palestinians are destined to play a key role in upholding our security.

First of all, it turns out that the main Israeli demand—to disarm Hamas and other terror organizations—has not been fulfilled. Gen. Yusuf issued a leaflet on the subject, but owing to the harsh reactions he received he abstained from doing anything. As a result, the number of armed attacks on Israelis within the boundaries of the Gaza Strip has not decreased. Every day there are several shooting incidents in the Qatif Bloc and along the Green Line. One of those incidents ended with the death of an IDF officer in Rafah earlier this week.

They have failed to thwart terror attacks. The situation is no different with regard to the handling of fugitives. Daily military logs show that the Palestinian forces arrive at the scene of a shooting incident too late, when their presence is no longer required. The IDF cannot give chase to the terrorists. In fact, fugitives are not dealt with in any way, unless they are hit in an exchange of fire.

It remains to be seen how the Palestinian forces will deploy when the Erez checkpoint reopens. Gazans claim that if they comply with the Israeli security requirements, the next riot will take place outside Yasir 'Arafat's living quarters at the Palestine Hotel.

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## Algeria

### Yemeni Envoy Gives Account of Abduction

*NC2307121194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Algiers, 23 Jul (MENA)—Qasim 'Askar Jubran, Yemen's ambassador to Algeria, has expressed his happiness to be free after being abducted for eight days along with the Omani ambassador and a member of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau in the Khemis el-Kechna area east of Algiers.

In an exclusive statement to a MENA correspondent here, the Yemeni ambassador said that during his abduction he met with the so-called Abu-'Abdallah Ahmad, leader of the Armed Islamic Group [al-jama'ah al-islamiyah al-musallahah], and a number of leading figures from the group in various areas, to which they were driven in closed vehicles. The ambassador added that they were treated well throughout their abduction by leaders of the Islamic groups [as received], with whom they discussed their ideas on establishing an Islamic state and the use of violence.

He added that the group leaders had told them that all factions of the Islamic groups in Algeria are now unified under the name of the "Armed Islamic Group" led by Abu-'Abdallah Ahmad. Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leader Abbassi Madani and deputy leader Ali Belhadj are only members in the group's consultative council, now that they are in prison. The ambassador added that during his abduction he saw many group members whose age ranged between 14 and 20 years only.

The Yemeni ambassador told the MENA correspondent the story of his abduction along with Omani Ambassador Hilal Bin Salim al-Siyabi and Muhammad Qasim al-Thur, YSP political bureau member. He noted that on 10 July he went on a ride with them in the car of the Omani ambassador, which was driven by a Moroccan driver, to the Khemis el-Kechna area after having performed the Friday prayers in one of the mosques. After they passed a security checkpoint, an armed group surrounded them and took them to an unspecified location, he added.

The ambassador added: We informed them of our diplomatic identities, but they were not convinced at first. They later took us in closed cars to several areas in the woods and mountains, which we could not recognize. Ambassador Jubran added: We spent most of the time in detailed religious debate with a number of leaders of the Islamic groups on the al-Salafiyah [Islamic] doctrine, the Sunnis, early Muslims, and Islam's renunciation of violence.

Asked how he was released in the end, the Yemeni ambassador said that the abductors yesterday took them from where they were held and drove them in several cars to the capital. Then, he added, we were given an Uno [Fiat] car, which we all got into and returned home yesterday evening.

### Conveys Militants' Offer

*NC2407084194 Paris AFP in English 0803 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Algiers, July 24 (AFP)—A group which kidnapped two Arab ambassadors has offered to call a halt to the killings of foreigners in Algeria in exchange for the release of one of its leaders, the freed Yemeni Ambassador Qasim 'Askar Jubran said.

The group made the offer to Algeria's military-backed authorities in a message handed to the envoy when he and his Omani counterpart, Hilal al-Siyabi, were released late last week, Jubran told the AL-WATAN newspaper in an interview Sunday.

Both diplomats were in good health and had returned to their countries, the official news agencies in Yemen and Oman said Saturday.

The man the kidnappers—whom Jubran said were from the Islamic Armed Group—want the release of is Abdelhak Layada, who currently faces a death sentence, Jebrane said.

The organisation is the most radical of the Islamic fundamentalist groups fighting the secular government since the military moved to cancel elections in January 1992 the Islamic Salvation Front had been poised to win.

### Omani Envoy Cited on Abduction

*NC2407091894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Algiers, 24 Jul (MENA)—Omani Ambassador Hilal Ibn-Salim al-Siyabi, who was kidnapped in Algeria, has disclosed that the armed Islamic groups that kidnapped him together with the Yemeni ambassador and a Yemeni Socialist Party member asked them to convey some important political points to the Algerian authorities. He said these points were conveyed to Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri when the latter received him and the Yemeni ambassador yesterday.

In an interview with MENA's correspondent in Algiers, the Omani ambassador said: We thank God who decreed our survival of this regrettable incident, which was accidental and unplanned. He added that he and his companions were not harmed at all during the abduction and that they were treated well in accordance with the norms observed in Arab and Islamic countries.

He said: We held talks with our kidnappers on various intellectual and political topics. They follow the Salafiyah Movement and do not belong to a particular religious sect, derive most of their ideas from Ibn-Taymiyah [13th century Muslim theologian], and have their own view on all issues, topics, and political regimes in the Islamic world in general.

He added: By conveying these groups' ideas, I am not playing the role of a propagandist for anyone or playing down what I heard. I was only a spectator; in other

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words, I am not for or against this thinking, I am just saying that a certain group has briefed us on their beliefs.

Replying to a question on why he and his companions went to the Khemis el-Kechna District east of the Algerian capital, which is known as a stronghold of the armed Islamic groups, he said: I didn't know that district and visited it for the first time on that day in the company of my Yemeni colleague. He added that the district is within 30 km and not within what was previously known as the 50-km zone for which permission is required to visit.

The Omani ambassador answered a question on the closure of a tourist restaurant in the district about a year ago after its owner received death threats and on the reasons why he and his companions went to that area at lunchtime on Friday. He said his Yemeni colleague told him about the restaurant, which they did not know was closed, and that they went there to have lunch, hoping to find it open. He said: The area has magnificent landscape worth seeing. Once we got there this incident, the abduction by the armed groups, took place. We performed prayers together with members of the armed groups throughout the time we spent with them. We traveled in closed cars in mountainous areas, woods, and plains, but we would not know how to go back now.

On the discussions the ambassador and his companions had with the kidnappers, he said: They revolved around various intellectual, political, and religious issues. We were on the defensive and agreed to resort to God's book. He noted that the absence of any negative indications during the discussions, in addition to the intervention of Divine Providence, greatly contributed to their release.

The Omani ambassador recounted to MENA's correspondent how he and his associates were released eight days after their abduction. He said: After all these days of discussions and attempts to reach a mutual understanding, we were told on Friday [22 July] morning that someone would take us to a certain place near the capital, from where we would proceed to our homes in a car that would be provided for us. He said the return journey began at 1100 in a closed car; we had no idea of where we were or where we were heading. We traveled through a forest, mountains, and plains, finally getting back here at 1830. In the return journey we stopped at many places to eat. When we reached the capital, a [Fiat] Uno was waiting for us on a side street. My colleague, the Yemeni ambassador, drove the car until we reached our homes safely.

The Omani ambassador in Algeria thanked the Arab ambassadors for their stand and feelings. He said: Every Arab ambassador identified with us and felt freed when we were released. He thanked the Algerian Foreign Ministry secretary general, who contacted him immediately upon his release to greet him on his safe return. He also thanked the ambassadors and officials who had contacted him from Algeria and abroad.

## FIS Official Discusses Unification of Factions

*JN2207154694 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 22 Jul 94 pp 18-20*

[Interview with Anwar Nasr-al-Din Haddam, head of the FIS parliamentary mission, by Murid 'Abd-al-Rahim in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Rahim] Your group "the Islamic Salvation Front" [FIS] has now coalesced with various Islamic factions to form "the United Islamic Group." What's the idea of the move, given that you are perceived outside Algeria, in particular by the United States, as being relatively moderate, and as such, eligible for a dialogue with the West and help toward a share in power?

[Haddam] That's not an accurate description of the picture. What happened was a merging of the mujahidin under a single banner. Following the 1992 military coup, the regime would have liked us to confront it within the framework of the FIS, which is not more than a political party. We were not ready for a military face-off with the regime. The FIS undertook to unite the jihad factions under a single banner, which is what its leadership in Algeria—the National Executive Bureau—did. It is the one in charge of issuing the statements signed by Abdelrazzak Rajjam, along with Shaykhs Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhaj before they were jailed.

With the eruption of trouble, there was a tendency to start an Islamic salvation army that would have brought together all these jihad efforts, especially against the background of a real misunderstanding developing between the armed Islamic group and the Islamic nations. However, once all these problems had been sorted out, all parties returned to the fold of the original group.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Are you saying that all the Islamic factions in Algeria are now grouped under the name "the Armed Islamic Group", although some of them deny this?

[Haddam] All the fighting mujahid elements are now united under a single banner, but none of the parties has been submerged in the whole. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Rahim] Then as far as you are concerned the door to dialogue is now shut, and the only option left is the military struggle?

[Haddam] This is so regarding the command at the home front; they have been forced into the military option. However, as a parliamentary mission for the front working abroad, we continue to solicit world opinion. For us, it is not too late. Political dialogue is not ruled out.

['Abd-al-Rahim] How is this unification going to affect your action in Algeria? Does it herald escalated hostilities? Are attacks targeting foreigners a sign of this intensification?

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[Haddam] We are not responsible for attacks against foreigners. But there will be a stepping up of our operations against the regime, these now being directed by a single leadership. However, our factions have not joined in an alliance as happened in Afghanistan. We are uniting under the command of Abi-Abdallah Ahmed. This means intensified struggle with a view to toppling the military regime as quickly as possible. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Rahim] Aside from your statements to the media, have you been in touch with politicians in Germany, Britain, Italy, and the United States, where you spend much of your time as representative of the FIS?

[Haddam] We did discuss the issue with those. I will not go into details. I will tell you, though, that we drove home the message that we are entitled to self-defense, as is the popularly elected FIS. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Rahim] What kind of advice have you heard in your unofficial contacts with the Americans?

[Haddam] Without meaning to meddle in their foreign policies, I wish the Americans were more accurate in their analysis of the Algerian affair. I will ask them not to pass up the opportunity; the region's peoples are anxious for the United States to engage them in dialogue. This is important in view of intrinsic hatred felt by some Europeans, France in particular, toward us. Naturally, peoples of the region very much want to set up relations with the Americans. But relations with the Americans are problematic; with the demise of the Soviet Union, they are now emerging from no world order to a new one. They also have their own domestic problems. In any case, the United States is, on the whole, more open to dialogue than the Europeans. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Rahim] Is there a chance the United States will support your violent campaign against the Algerian Government?

[Haddam] The trouble is that Washington makes no distinction between the oppressor and the aggrieved, which is not wise. The United States is bending over backwards to reinstate the elected president of Haiti. In Algeria, Washington does not recognize the leadership that had won the elections. It is doing political and economic business with the incumbent regime, and it backs the International Monetary Fund's program to prop it up. This, despite the objections that we, as the popularly elected authority, raised with the Americans. The United States continues to offer training for a new command for the Algerian Army.

['Abd-al-Rahim] The U.S. Congress has curtailed its security cooperation program with Algeria. The program, anyway, is modest compared with such programs with other third world countries, including Arab states?

[Haddam] That's what they say. With all respect, the Americans are preparing a new command for the Algerian military, and toward that end are training officers. Such a program is not particularly costly; they can bypass Congress and secure funding for it from sources other than American taxpayers. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Rahim] Do you have the feeling the U.S. Administration is headed for recognizing self-determination for the Algerians, or recognizing you as the legitimate, elected representatives of the Algerian people?

[Haddam] The Americans are characteristically flexible and responsive to realities on the ground. They know that, God willing, the Islamic state in Algeria is coming no matter how some may feel about it. The question is how they handle such a development. Already, some quarters are showing hostility toward our people, including those who are extending economic support to and concluding commercial and political deals with the regime. Others are being more discreet, like the United States.

### 'Alleged Killer' of Journalist 'Eliminated'

*LD2307194994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] The security services today announced that the alleged killer of journalist Mohamed Liamine Laghoui was eliminated last Thursday [21 July] in Bousaada municipality during a search operation launched after the attack.

According to the same source, the matter concerns one Benouahman Said, who was 41 years old. The search for Said has been in progress since last March, following his escape from Tazoult prison. This terrorist, who used to travel on a motorcycle, was in possession of an automatic pistol. The first information from the search confirms that Said was the killer of journalist Laghoui, who was shot dead last Thursday near his home in Bousaada.

### Government To Send Humanitarian Aid to Rwanda

*LD2407233994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] A Foreign Ministry statement has announced that Algeria has decided to extend humanitarian aid to Rwanda, which will be sent in the coming days. The same statement adds that the aid will be a package to be put together by the Interior Ministry, the Algerian Red Crescent, and other concerned authorties. According to the same statement, the initiative is a reflection of Algeria's support for Rwanda, which has been torn by civil war.

## Egypt

### Mubarak Interviewed on Upcoming Trip to Damascus

*TA2207153294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jul 94 pp 1, 15*

["Exclusive" interview with President Husni Mubarak by correspondent Smadar Peri in Cairo on 21 July]

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[Text] "I am about to leave for Damascus to persuade President al-Asad to resolve the problem with Israel differently. It is time he learns from the Egyptian, Jordanian, and Palestinian experiences with Israel and begins direct and public negotiations."

These remarks were made yesterday by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in an exclusive interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

He stressed: "I know for a fact that Syria would like to have peace with Israel and resolve its problems with a comprehensive agreement. To achieve peace with Syria, however, the only choice is to return the entire Golan Heights."

[Peri] The entire Golan Heights?

[Mubarak] All Syrian lands. If you want peace, you have no choice but to make concessions, and I think peace between you and Syria is worth any concession.

[Peri] Prime Minister Rabin is now proposing a gradual withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for gradual peace with Syria.

[Mubarak] I see no point in answering this or discussing any details at this time. I am about to travel to Syria to hear their views and discuss problems.

[Peri] Do you personally believe Damascus will accept Rabin's proposal?

[Mubarak] I have no authority to speak on Syria's behalf. I know Syria is demanding full, not gradual, withdrawal. The problem is a total lack of confidence between Israel and Syria. For this reason Israel has proposed a phased withdrawal. I think it is vital to build up trust. It will facilitate the process.

[Peri] Mr. President, what would you advise Prime Minister Rabin to do in order to build trust with President al-Asad?

[Mubarak] I have often discussed the Syrian issue with Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres. Personally, I believe they fully understand the issue. Syria will never enter peace negotiations without receiving a commitment for full withdrawal. This is an obvious and well-known fact. The rest is a matter of procedure.

[Peri] Yet President al-Asad is not prepared to present his concept of peace vis-a-vis Israel. Will he agree to establish normal relations, to exchange ambassadors?

[Mubarak] Never mind that. I am not going to discuss this issue in a newspaper. I will discuss the issue with my brother, President al-Asad.

[Peri] What would you say to Prime Minister Rabin on the eve of his first public meeting with King Husayn next week?

[Mubarak] I congratulate Mr. Rabin on his peace process achievements, and I am encouraged by the results so far. The Israeli Government is courageous. The resolution of the Palestinian problem was an important endeavor. It is not a defeat for Israel. Eventually, there will be cooperation between Israel and all its neighbors.

[Peri] How do you view this new Israel-Egypt-Jordan triangle?

[Mubarak] It is too soon to say. I suggest we drop the issue until we reach a comprehensive solution. Resolving problems with Syria and Lebanon will pave the way to peace. I assure you there will be cooperation.

[Peri] The Arab world is, after all, following Egypt's lead: It is making separate peace agreements with Israel. First, it was the PLO; now it is Jordan.

[Mubarak] I disagree. We should look at the long-range picture. When President al-Sadat made his historic visit to Jerusalem, he did not sign a separate agreement with Israel. I suggest you review his Knesset address. He wanted a breakthrough, not a separate solution. He wanted to open "a sealed case." We did not just take back our land. At no time did we neglect the Palestinian problem or the Golan problem. As you know, Egypt has been indefatigable in its endeavors on behalf of the Palestinians, in convening the Madrid conference. Egypt has been helping Jordan, and it never stopped striving to a comprehensive solution in the region. Our goal has been and is to reach a total peace that will eliminate all the sensitivities in the region.

[Peri] When will you visit our country, Mr. President?

[Mubarak] Don't worry, I will visit everyone I need to. When the moment is right, I will drop in for a visit with no fussy preparations. I do not like ceremonies.

[Peri] Will this visit take place soon?

[Mubarak, smiling] I am not going to tell you. It is a secret.

### Christopher Phones Mubarak on Damascus Talks

*NC2207145994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Christopher briefed Mubarak on the latest developments in light of his recent talks in Damascus. Christopher said he may return to the region shortly to follow up his efforts toward a comprehensive peace.

Christopher added that he will leave for Washington to coordinate the meeting that will take place on 25 July among U.S. President Bill Clinton, King Husayn of Jordan, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

### Mubarak Returns From Damascus Visit

*NC2407171894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation returned to

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the homeland with God's care this evening after a six-hour visit to Syria. President Mubarak held talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the latest developments in the Middle East.

### Discusses Visit With Editors

*NC2407185294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that President Hafiz al-Asad is committed to peace and that the ongoing talks on the Syrian track are exploratory steps. He added that he expects flexibility in the next phase.

In remarks to chief editors of Egyptian newspapers who accompanied him to Damascus, President Mubarak said that thanks to its good relations with the United States—the main cosponsor of the peace process—and Israel, Egypt can play an effective role in promoting the peace process and identifying commonalities with a view to making progress toward a comprehensive and just solution compatible with the interests of all parties.

President Mubarak expressed the hope that 1994 would be the year of comprehensive peace in all areas. He said the current circumstances are favorable for achieving this goal because the continuation of the conflict is an unpleasant prospect. The time has come to achieve a just and comprehensive solution and to end all differences.

President Mubarak said his talks in Syria mainly dealt with the peace issue. They also dealt with bilateral coordination in the various areas. He said the recent period has witnessed a noticeable increase in trade between Egypt and Syria.

President Mubarak described Egypt's constant political drive as having a positive effect on Egypt's international status and effectively contributing to strong and close relations with all states. This plays a role in resolving many of Egypt's financial and economic problems.

President Mubarak said there are no problems with the IMF. He added that when Egypt lent the IMF $100 million recently, this was a testimony to Egypt's stable economic situation. Egypt is thus helping the developing states that are seeking loans from the IMF. He said there are no plans to increase prices of commodities for the time being.

Referring to the national dialogue held recently, President Mubarak said we are studying all reports issued by the dialogue committees. We will not hesitate to adopt them if they are in the public interest, be they political, economic, or social reports. He added that the most important factor is the interest of the citizen. We will adopt without hesitation any measure that is positive.

Regarding the electoral system in Egypt, President Mubarak explained that time is needed to discuss and study this issue. If public interest dictates that we adopt the list system, as the dialogue recommended, we will do it. If the public interest dictates otherwise, we will not do it. We always adhere to the public interest.

Concluding his remarks, President Mubarak said the tax imposed on Egyptians working abroad is their contribution toward supporting their country. This system is operational in wealthy states, such as the United States and Britain.

### Jordanian Envoy Meets Musa, Comments on Peace

*NC2507120894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jul 94*

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met Jordanian Ambassador Nayif al-Qadi. Afterward Ambassador al-Qadi said they discussed the latest developments in the peace process and the current progress along the Jordanian-Israeli track. He added that he briefed Musa on the Jordanian position on the issue, noting that Musa reiterated Egypt's support.

He added that Musa explained the outcome of President Mubarak's visit to Damascus yesterday and the details of his meeting with President al-Asad.

He also discussed the expected results of King Husayn's meeting in Washington today with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, al-Qadi said.

The ambassador pointed out that today's tripartite summit meeting will discuss ways to move toward peace on the Jordanian track and accordingly arrive at the comprehensive and lasting peace that the region's peoples are eager to achieve.

Touching on Jordan's position on Jerusalem, Ambassador al-Qadi said: I do not think today's meeting will discuss this point.

He affirmed that Jordan's position on Jerusalem is "clear and definite." Jordan views Jerusalem from the perspective of religious and political jurisdiction, he said, adding: As to the religious aspect, Jordan believes that God alone can rule Jerusalem, because it hosts the holy sites. As for sovereignty and political control, he added, Jerusalem is occupied Arab land and if authority is established it will be for the Palestinians.

### AL-AHRAM on Jordan-Israel Talks, Coordination

*NC2407082994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper says the current political moves in the Jordanian-Israeli track represent an important historic step toward a peaceful settlement in the region.

In its editorial today, the paper adds that the two sides' agreement to begin studying joint projects in trade,

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banking, industry, aviation, and tourism indicate a trend for political considerations to replace economic ones.

The paper notes that the expected meeting between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington is regarded as the first move toward a comprehensive peace between Jordan and Israel.

The paper stresses continuing coordination between the Arab parties and says that there should be a link among the various tracks so that progress in one area will not weaken another.

### Mubarak Receives Message From Zairian President

*NC2307082894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a written message from Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko. General Kampa Bardamutu Kata [name as transliterated], an envoy of the Zairian president, this morning handed the message to Mubarak. The Zairian envoy arrived in Cairo last night on a visit of a few days to Egypt.

### Chief of Staff Meets With Zaire, Uruguay Officials

*NC2407141894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[All names and titles as received]

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Salah Halabi today received General Rakabama Paramotokata, chief of the civilian guards in Zaire, who is leading a high-ranking military delegation to Egypt. They discussed ways to enhance and develop military cooperation between the two countries in addition to issues of mutual interest.

The chief of staff also met with Lieutenant General Daniel Garcia, deputy defense minister of Uruguay, and discussed the development of military cooperation. Professor Luis Rodolfo, general commander of the Armed Forces in Uruguay, attended the meeting.

### 'Arafat Sends Congratulations on Anniversary

*NC2407050494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Gaza, 23 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has expressed his profound thanks and great appreciation for support President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people have given to the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO in order to establish a just peace based on restoring the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The Palestinian president today sent this cable to President Mubarak marking the 23 July revolution. The Palestinian president said: Your constructive participation has played a major role in pushing forward the peace process and achieving what we have gained thus far in establishing the Palestinian National Authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

He added: We thank you for this support and stress the importance of a commitment from all parties to implement the spirit and the letter of the Washington and Cairo agreements in order to achieve a just peace in Palestine and the region.

President 'Arafat noted the importance of constructive Egyptian participation and fruitful cooperation between Egypt and Palestine in the interest of the Palestinian and Egyptian people, as well as the Arab nation and the entire region.

### World Bank 'Fully Satisfied' With Economic Reforms

*NC2307072494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Washington, 23 Jul (MENA)—The World Bank has stated it is "fully satisfied" with the economic reform program in Egypt. The World Bank emphasized that the second stage of the structural adjustment program being implemented by the Egyptian Government has been successful.

This statement was issued by the World Bank last night at the conclusion of talks between bank officials and the Egyptian delegation. The delegation is led by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, and includes Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of public business sector and minister of state for administrative development; Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz; Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation; and Central Bank Governor Isma'il Hasan.

The talks between bank officials and the Egyptian delegation focused on the final stage of the economic reform and structural adjustment programs being implemented in cooperation with the World Bank and the IMF.

In the statement, Ram Shupra [name as transliterated], director of the World Bank's Middle East Department, stated that the talks held with the Egyptian delegation were part of the first follow-up and assessment process of the current stage of the economic reform program implemented by Egypt. He added: We are fully satisfied with the steps that have been made.

The statement pointed out that particular attention had been given in the follow-up and assessment process to the privatization efforts undertaken by Egypt. The talks are part of the on-going consultations between Egypt and the World Bank to follow up the implementation of the second stage of the structural adjustment program, the

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statement noted. With the conclusion of these talks, the first follow-up and assessment process has been completed, the statement added, noting that the second assessment process will be held in February 1995.

The Egyptian delegation concluded its talks last night with a meeting with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus. The delegation is scheduled to leave Washington for Cairo later today.

The talks between the delegation and the IMF officials focused in particular on the currencies' exchange rate mechanism, which in all cases must serve the Egyptian economy.

## NPUG Statement Views National Dialogue

*NC2507122394 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 20 Jul 94 p 6*

[Statement by the General Secretariat of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping, NPUG; place and date not given]

[Text] The NPUG General Secretariat has listened to a report on the National Dialogue Congress. Having reviewed the positions stated by the NPUG representatives in the Congress, the General Secretariat states the following:

1. It is necessary to prepare a comprehensive study of dialogue and its practice, method, and outcome, using the records of the sessions. Such a study should express our full opinion on the issue.

2. The dialogue was subject to unhealthy and ill-advised activities by the ruling [National Democratic Party] party on issues concerning preparations for the congress, the nomination of participants, the boundaries of discussion, and the congress' duration.

3. Our position regarding the dialogue was subject to a campaign of distortion and inadequate reporting by some of the government-run papers. The government media have generally failed to cover adequately the opinions of the opposition.

4. The dialogue, despite the drawbacks, has achieved some positive results. These results, although short of our expectations, are worthwhile.

5. Our representatives to the National Dialogue Congress have performed their tasks efficiently and presented the NPUG views faithfully.

6. Our party should continue to work for the positive implementation of the agreements reached in the Congress.

7. We must mobilize the NPUG behind the idea and method of dialogue on professional and social levels. The NPUG should open multiple channels for continuing dialogue.

8. We must exert a positive effort for maintaining links with other opposition parties and forces, including those that boycotted the dialogue.

9. Our mass media (AL-AHALI) and party media (progress, discussion topics) should continue to focus on dialogue as an idea, method, and practice.

## Participants, Party Members Evaluate Dialogue

*NC2107104594 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 14-20 Jul 94 p 2*

[Report by Shadin Shihab]

[Text] Recommendations and proposals by the National Dialogue Conference which ended its meetings last Thursday, were presented to President Husni Mubarak. Commenting on the proceedings, Mustafa Khalil, the rapporteur, stated that "it was beneficial that people with different ideologies discussed matters face to face and exchanged points of view".

In agreement with Khalil, Lutfi al-Khuli, a senior political analyst and writer said that "for the first time people of different orientations listened to each other and tried to understand the other's argument". However, he added that "this dialogue was only a rehearsal for another anticipated in the future".

Ibrahim Shukri, chairman of the Labour party, concurred with al-Khuli about the idea of another conference, adding that the greatest benefit of this dialogue was that different points of view were exchanged.

"The dialogue has succeeded in correcting our way of thinking," said Rif'at al-Sa'id, general-secretary of the leftist Tagammu party [National Progressive Unionist Grouping]. Explaining that "each party had always thought that they, alone, were correct, but the dialogue taught us that others could be more right", al-Sa'id added that the NDP [National Democratic Party] was by far the clearest example of this haughtiness. "The NDP [National Democratic Party] had always looked upon the opposition as worthless, problematic elements," he said.

President Husni Mubarak called for a national dialogue last October, at the beginning of his third term, to attempt to reach a national consensus on the political and economic problems facing Egypt at the threshold of the 21st century. Six months later, the president appointed a 40-member preparatory committee to determine the agenda, participants and scheduling of the dialogue. The dialogue, which started on 25 June and ended last Thursday, included 250 participants and was divided into political, economic, social and cultural committees.

The political committee of the dialogue recommended the shift from an individual to a party system in parliamentary elections. The candidates of each party will be required to run on a collective slate in each constituency

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making the distribution of parliamentary seats proportional to the number of votes each party wins. Another recommendation by the political committee was to reduce the Socialist Prosecutor-General's political powers.

The economic committee recommended that in order to ensure social justice, the state should continue to play a role in infrastructural services, monetary and credit policies and the distribution of wealth. The social and cultural committee pressed for the need to eradicate illiteracy and recommended that compulsory education be extended to include the preparatory and secondary stages rather than only the primary stage. Affirming that "the recommendations will certainly be taken into consideration", Khalil added that "the president is the one to determine the next step".

"The next step is to implement the results of the dialogue," said Fawziyah 'Abd-al-Sattar, chairwoman of Parliament's legislative committee and participant in the dialogue. She emphasised that each authority concerned should seek to ensure that the changes agreed upon will be carried through. Citing an example, she said that "the People's Assembly should discuss the proposed amendments concerning the elections". Ibrahim Shukri said "If these changes are implemented they will light the path to democracy and reform, otherwise the dialogue will only be futile diatribe."

Recommendations, such as amending laws which were seen by the opposition parties as obstacles on the path of democracy, were seen by Khalil as positive outcomes from the dialogue. Rif'at al-Sa'id added that the "NDP [National Democratic Party] made many concessions to the demands of the opposition parties".

Commenting on the negative aspects of the dialogue, Lutfi al-Khuli noted that he had "expected a more in-depth dialogue with more vision for the future". According to al-Khuli, the "dialogue was weighed down by the discussion of details rather than probing deeply into the real problems we are facing". He added that there should be some interchange between political, economic and social reforms. Al-Khuli explained that "reform in one should go hand-in-hand with the other, or else it would lead to chaos and confusion." He gave as an example the former Soviet Union, where political reform overtook the economic and the social. "The situation became chaotic and violent."

Complaining about the brevity of the national dialogue and the fact that opposition parties were not given an opportunity to address the issues and add to recommendations, Ibrahim Shukri lamented that the forum was not sufficient for discussing the numerous problems of Egypt. "It was left to the NDP members to finalise the recommendations, which in turn could sway the results in their favour." In his opinion, there were too many people participating in the dialogue. "It is impossible to give 250 people a chance to fully express their points of view."

Moreover, Shukri said that the "Marxists and the Muslim Brotherhood should have taken part in the dialogue, because in the end they do represent a segment of the society". These groups were barred from the dialogue as a result of having previously been dubbed "illegal".

The liberal Wafd Party of Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din and Diya'-al-Din Dawud Democratic Nasserist Party boycotted the dialogue. Siraj-al-Din had insisted that the amendment of the constitution be on the agenda, but the proposal was rejected by the members of the preparatory committee of the national dialogue. The Nasserist Party boycott was a result of a disagreement on the number of NDP members who would participate, and because of assertions that Mustafa Khalil was the "leader of the Israeli lobby in governmental circles".

"The results of the national dialogue proved that boycotting was the right thing to do," said Diya'-al-Din Dawud. "We had hoped that the dialogue would deal with strategic problems" such as poverty, corruption and democracy. "But how," he asked, "did the ordinary citizen, who is crushed by the high cost of living, benefit from this dialogue?"

Yasin Siraj-al-Din, the Wafd party's spokesman and brother of its chairman concluded by stating that, "any valuable change will only take place if the constitution is amended, it is the key to all reform". He, however, admitted that the dialogue had some positive outcomes such as the change to the party system in the parliamentary elections, and the restrictions placed on the political powers of the Socialist Prosecutor-General.

## Citizens Express Views on National Dialogue

*NC2107115694 Cairo AL-AHRAM in English 14-20 Jul p 2*

[Report by Muna al-Nahhas]

[Text] While a few citizens polled on the street or at their work place praised the achievements of the National Dialogue Conference, the majority objected to its failure to address the issues of amending the constitution and the recommendation that the nation adopt a party slate parliamentary electoral system instead of the present individual candidacy system.

Nabil al-Sharbini, a 35-year-old lawyer, described the dialogue as "nothing but a gimmick aimed at involving the opposition parties in decisions which had been taken in advance by the government". He said the dialogue "failed to become national because it was limited to certain figures who do not feel the pulse of the people. To achieve a satisfactory result, peasants, workers, students and people from various walks of life should have been allowed to participate".

Other sources of concern for him were that the dialogue had failed to address some issues of great importance. "I

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think that what the people are waiting for is comprehensive political reform. The only possible path towards this reform is the amendment of the constitution, which is lagging behind the times, but the conference did not deal with it." Pointing an accusing finger at the party slate system, he added that "this way obligates me to give my vote to all the names included in the slate, even if I have objections to one or two of them. Secondly, why should we adopt a system declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Constitutional Court?"

While Ahmad Tantawi, a 52-year-old civil servant, viewed the dialogue as a "good step along the path of democracy", he objected to the dialogue's brief lifespan, which did not exceed two weeks". [quotation mark as published] He felt that "discussing vital issues such as parliamentary election laws, illiteracy and unemployment requires no less than six months". Moreover, "the conference should have dealt with the issue of amending the constitution and recommended the abrogation of the emergency law", while also recommending "actual solutions to the problems which concern the majority of the people, such as housing and soaring prices, instead of dealing with the role of the Shura Council".

Tantawi also gave a critical glance in the direction of the Wafd and Nasserist parties for boycotting the dialogue. "Regardless of anything, they should have participated and stated their views. This would have made a big difference. But they preferred to take a passive posture."

University professor Hamdi 'Abd-al-'Azim, 47, also expressed his objections to the make-up of the conference. "The majority of participants were members of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP). Consequently, the conference appeared to be a monologue rather than an effective dialogue. As for the rest, they were either figures with outdated ideologies dating back to totalitarian or socialist regimes or famous intellectuals who did not have time for the conference. In my opinion, the dialogue lacked the participation of the simple categories of people, who make up the majority of Egyptians."

Similar displeasure was exhibited by Muhammad Isma'il a 57-year-old teacher, who, in no uncertain terms, said that the dialogue "was a waste of time because it failed to achieve its main target—comprehensive political reform. To my surprise, speakers opted for postponing the amendment of the constitution, although it is the first step towards reform. And then they decided to switch back to the slate system which had been declared unconstitutional."

Others, however, could not care less. They include Muhammad Sa'd, a 28-year-old hairdresser. "What dialogue?" he asked in surprise. "This is the first time I have heard about it." Sa'd hastily added: "I am not really interested in politics. The only pages I read in newspapers are the sports and obituary pages."

Zaynab Hasan, a 35-year-old secretary, noted with indignation: "I work for 10 hours a day in order to feed my two kids. I have no time to follow up such nonsense."

Salah 'Abd-al-Bar, a 50-year-old mechanic, said: "A dialogue is something useful. But what concerns me, as a simple citizen, is to see the fruit of all this talk."

### Authorities Arrest 62 'Terrorists' in Asyut

*NC2207163094 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Jul 94 p 24*

[Report by Murid Subhi]

[Excerpt] In the course of a two-week security campaign, which targeted the terrorist and criminal centers and the fugitive elements in Asyut and was designed to tighten the noose around the fugitives fleeing from the Upper Egypt governorates, the Asyut security forces arrested 62 dangerous terrorists. They are wanted for their involvement in terrorist activities, monitoring the movement of police officers, giving shelter to wanted terrorists, and carrying instructions between the military wing's members. The security forces seized 170 assorted weapons, including 53 automatic rifles. They also arrested 727 criminal and political suspects.

Asyut security director Major General Majdi al-Basyuni supervised the preparations for the two-week campaign with the help of Brigadier Gen. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahman, director of the intelligence service, to raid all the centers of crime and terrorism. [passage omitted]

### Police Kill 2 'Islamic Militants' in Asyut

*NC2307192594 Paris AFP in English 1528 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, 23 Jul (AFP)—Egyptian security forces shot dead two Islamic militants during a clash in the troubled southern province of Asyut on Saturday [23 July], security officials said.

Muhammad Fayyad, regional head of the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group, opened fire at security officers who were searching for him in the al-Badari region. The officers returned fire, killing Fayyad and an unidentified associate, the sources said. Fayyad was wanted in connection with several attacks on policemen in Asyut, a hotbed of Islamic militant unrest.

The incident raised to 158 the number of suspected Islamic militants killed since the fundamentalists launched a violent campaign to topple the secular government of President Husni Mubarak in March 1992. A total of 407 people have died in the violence, including 142 policemen.

The number of attacks in Cairo and Upper Egypt has declined since April, when police shot dead the head of al-Jama'ah's military wing and stepped up arrests of suspected militants in the Asyut area.

### New 'Extremist' Organization Uncovered in Damietta

*NC2507101494 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Jul 94 p 1*

[Report by al-Sayyid al-Tarabili from Damietta]

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[Text] Security agencies in Damietta have uncovered a new extremist organization. The new organization, an offshoot of the al-Tawaqquf wa al-Tabayyun [Hesitation and Confirmation] group, believes in the apostasy of the ruler and society and proscribes education, government work, and service in the Armed Forces as sinful.

The organization members controlled several villages and forced the people to follow their instructions. It is led by Najib 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il, a carpenter whose father was executed in 1965 in connection with a Muslim Brotherhood case.

Damietta Chief Prosecutor Mustafa al-Badwihi is questioning the organization members under the supervision of Counselor Ahmad al-'Izabi, public attorney at the Damietta Prosecution Office.

The organization has 120 members who admitted to committing several terrorist operations, including the attack on the house and the attempted assassination of Lieutenant Colonel Mutawi' Abu-al-Naja from the State Security Intelligence Department. The defendants have been remanded to custody on charges of belonging to an unlawful organization calling for changing society's system, stirring up sedition among Muslims, and seeking to overthrow the government.

### Activity of Deported Kuwaiti, Saudi Citizens Detailed

*NC2507120494 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 20 Jul 94 p 1*

[Report by Mahmud al-Hadari and Tharwat Shalabi]

[Text] Informed sources have told AL-AHALI the secret behind the deportation of Saudi citizen 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Zayd and Kuwaiti citizen 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Mujaybil on charges of funding terrorist groups in Egypt.

The sources noted that the deportations followed high-level negotiations during which agreements were concluded to stop all funding of terrorist groups. Under the agreements the financing of charity organizations must come from the Egyptian Ministry of Awqaf, which is the only party authorized to receive donations and alms [zakah] contributions. The agreements also included the disclosure of names of terrorist groups, as well as joint cooperation to combat terrorism.

The Egyptian security agencies arrested al-Mujaybil on 28 March as he handed a $15,700 cheque to two Egyptians, Mustafa Diyab and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Abd-al-Majid, who are known to have ties with the extremist groups. Al-Mujaybil claimed the money was a contribution to charity from the Kuwaiti Society for the Revival of Islamic Heritage, which he represents, and that he had come to Egypt to follow up projects financed by the society. The Kuwaiti defendant told the prosecutors that he was a frequent visitor to Egypt. He added that Kuwaiti societies donated approximately 500 million pounds to set up some 200 projects in several Egyptian cities and villages and that he faced no opposition from the Egyptian Government to such activity.

Saudi citizen 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Zayd, who was arrested by security men in April and deported last week, was caught handing a large sum of money to the owner of a printing press in Imbabah. The press is used to publish statements, leaflets, and books by the extremist groups. The Saudi citizen said he was giving assistance to charity organizations and individuals who belong to various Islamic groups.

### Islamist Writer on Veil, Population Conference

*NC2307145494 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jul 94 p 5*

[Article by Muslim Brotherhood writer Ahmad al-Malat: "The Great Catastrophe"]

[Text] The great catastrophe lies in the explicit challenge between God's command and what is being commanded by some officials in this unfortunate country which has been afflicted with people who have Islamic names but have been led astray by false ideas and the devil, and there is nothing Islamic about them except the name.

Not long ago, the national press, led by AL-AHRAM (AL-AHRAM 2 July 1994) opened its heart—and how big its heart is—to Dr. 'Abd- al-'Azim Ramadan to shoulder the burden of propaganda supporting nudity and immorality and for casting doubt on the religious duty of women to wear the veil. This duty has been confirmed by Islamic verses and statements. There is no argument about this, as this is the command of Almighty God, the Lord of the universe.

"Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty."

"Say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (must ordinarily) appear thereof, that they should draw their veils over their bosoms..." to the end of the verse.

"Prophet! Tell thy wives and daughters and the believing women that they should cast their outer garments over their persons (when abroad)."

In the light of all these verses, is there any excuse for anyone? Or does Dr. Ramadan have another opinion about what is stated in the Koran?

His excellency the dynamic doctor tries in a diabolical way to play on words to come up with wicked interpretations that are closer to apostasy than to Islam; otherwise, what is there after modesty except to display one's charms—something which Islam has forbidden? What is there after the veil except exposure of charms and arousal of desire to sin? He ridicules those who link the veil with virtue. He even falsely claims that the veil hinders work and inspires laziness. He also claims—and what an evil claim it is—that innocent intermingling between the two sexes creates immunity and makes the

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girl less vulnerable. Man, haven't you heard what the Prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, said: "No man and woman get together alone without Satan being their third partner?" Or are you deaf?

ROSE AL-YUSUF (13 June 1994) also allowed Counselor Muhammad Sa'id al-'Ashmawi to state that the veil is not an Islamic duty, disregarding what was said in the Koran and the Sunna [the Prophet's traditions and sayings] in this regard. His eminence the mufti made a vague response that the veil is the responsibility of all Muslim women and was not limited to the mothers of the believers and the wives of the Prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him. Will the Muslims accept what his excellency the counselor has said or will they listen to the religious ruling of the mufti? People, let us know.

The great catastrophe is for the minister of education and culture, the man responsible for the young generation before God and the people, to shoulder the heavy burden of the vicious campaign against the Islamic education of boys and girls in the early years of their education which every teacher depends upon to nurture and produce good Muslim youths.

The dynamic minister attacked Islamic education in its three basic pillars, attempting to kill it.

He attacked the educational book, removing from it everything connected with Islam and everything linking the child with his identity and heritage so he will grow up ignorant about his religion.

He attacked the Muslim teacher by removing most of the Islamist teachers—if not all of them—so they cannot guide boys and girls and give them an Islamic education, claiming that they have violated the educational system and their presence in their jobs constitutes a danger. He removed them and replaced them with secular teachers who have nothing to do with religion whatsoever.

He attacked the Islamic school with the imposition of secular systems that are not concerned with providing religious education to the boys and girls, but instead promote intermingling, laxity, and sexual attraction, making sex dominate the minds of boys and girls before their minds can grow and mature and can distinguish between what is right and wrong and can place controls on what is permitted and what is not. This is the language of the devil pronounced by their tongues.

It is a conspiracy with unspecified dimensions that is meant to dry up the springs of the Muslim community, family, and individual. There is much money and ill will behind it. Under this conspiracy which is planned from abroad, everybody is committed to following the path charted for him without asking questions, like a herd of sheep led by a shepherd. It is indeed an open war declared against Islam in the country of Islam. As every action generates a reaction equal in force but in an opposite direction, according to the well- known mathematical theory, the reaction of all Muslims to this onslaught was equal in force. The cycle of commitment has broadened and the veil has imposed itself in the street, the shop, and the office. Its use among university students has increased and many of those who had taken up acting as a profession, which required immodesty on their part, have become more committed to Islam and its veil than others. With the spirit of Islam winning the hearts of the youth, the mosques are now full. Observing dawn prayers, which had been missing and unnoticed before, has become popular among youngsters, and discussion among Muslim youth has become the rule.

It gives me much joy to pass by a preparatory or secondary school for girls and see with pride groups of girls wearing the attire ordered by God, not the one ordered by the education minister under the new law. Panic has gripped the minister and his companions from Satan's followers to see the young generations of future mothers nearing perfection and taking the first step on the road to creating future men to be raised in chaste and virtuous homes, after learning God's book, obeying His orders, staying away from His proscriptions, and saying loud and clear: "We hear and we obey. We seek Thy forgiveness, our Lord, and to Thee is the end of all journeys." [Koranic verse] An Ottoman decree, taking the people by surprise, issued by the enthusiastic minister, forbade the wearing of the veil without the prior approval of the parents! How dare you encroach upon God's right?

The remarks made by Sa'id al-'Ashmawi, 'Abd-al-'Azim Ramadan, and others can be refuted. After all, they are merely individual interpretations. Yet for a minister in office to issue such a decree in defiance of the heavenly order and Islamic law is indeed the greatest of calamities that must be confronted by all Muslims. They must rise to defend God's edicts and repulse this ferocious onslaught waged by a minister who sought to undermine Islam in the land of Islam. He either forgot or ignored the holy saying: Live the way you want, for you are bound to die, and do what you want, for you will be judged by your deeds. He knows that he will not be immortal in his position, that today is different from yesterday, that tomorrow is another day, that anyone who has done the least bit of good shall see it, and that anyone who has done the least bit of evil shall see it. With his new law, the enthusiastic minister wants people to get his permission before following heaven's orders, and this is the greatest challenge for people, particularly parents. In this regard, I recall the words of the Prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, when he told his companions that a day will come when people will cease to promote virtue and suppress vice. Indeed, we have ceased to promote virtue and shun vice. Now we fit God's saying: "Curses were pronounced on those among the children of Israel who rejected faith, by the tongue of David and of Jesus, the son of Mary: Because they disobeyed and persisted in excesses. Nor did they usually forbid one another the iniquities which they committed:

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Evil indeed were the deeds which they did." [Koranic verse] Are we cursed for ceasing to promote virtue and suppress vice? Or have we gone even farther with the officials' orders to promote vice and suppress virtue, thus committing people to follow laws that run counter to Almighty God's orders? It is indeed a calamity and a catastrophe from which we hope God will rescue us before we become the object of God's anger, which is severe.

**A Poisonous Wind: The International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD]**

A strong wind is today blowing from the West. It is indeed a poisonous wind. As if we have not had enough trouble as a result of the officials' calls for obscenity, nudity, and vice, they are now preparing for Satan's conference to be held here in Cairo in September under the auspices of the United Nations, or rather, the United States, in the name of the International Conference on Population and Development. The preparatory meeting for this conference was held in New York in April 1994. The strange thing is that only the Vatican has opposed it. As for the Islamic states in general, they were struck dumb and deaf, except for words of blessing and cheers.

The following are among the salient points contained in the preamble of this project:

1. Permitting abortions for all ages, as this will reduce population and, consequently, raise the standards of living!

2. Absolute sexual liberties for adolescents; that is, open sexual relations between adolescent boys and girls!

3. Adolescents' right to lead their own private lives, such as enabling girls to take the pill or use birth control methods.

O people, can there be more permissiveness, debauchery, and drifting of the people toward the course of animals? Actually, the animals are more organized in their relations than this licentious permissiveness. Why was Cairo chosen to be the venue of this suspect conference to be held in September? Why is the conference overwhelmingly welcomed by Arab and Muslim governments? Has Egypt become too shamelessly perverse to fear further depravation? Wake up, O people, for God's war is too devastating to resist, except by way of sincere repentance and recourse to the right path. O people, parents, brothers in the land of al-Azhar; the land of heavenly messages; the land walked by prophets: I say it in full sincerity and honesty. The burden of protecting future generations from falling into the traps of the devils falls upon you. I remind you of the Prophet's saying: You are all shepherds and each shepherd is responsible for his herd. The responsibility lies first and foremost with the father and the mother to lead the new generation to what satisfies God, not what satisfies the ruler. God's right is crystal clear and needs no clarification or debate. It is an explicit order. Either accept it and be rewarded with paradise or reject it and end up in hell, which will be fueled by people and stones. Teach your sons and daughters the dignity and the loftiness of Islam. Teach them the difference between virtue and deviation. Remind them of the pillars of Islam which the officials have forced them to forget and, instead, to wander in the wilderness of deviation, the caves of ignorance, and departure from the right path. They did so out of greed for meager worldly gains; how cheap these gains are. Alas, even from these meager gains they will only get what God has ordained for them in His holy book.

O fathers and mothers, the call of truth has come to you from heaven through your Prophet, who said: "A time will come when the book and the authority will be in conflict, so follow the book wherever it goes." Verily, the messenger of God has spoken. What the Prophet said more than 15 centuries ago is becoming true today. The book and the authority are in conflict today, and we must follow the Prophet's guidance. The wicked one must be disregarded, irrespective of his justifications. Will you follow the book or will you follow what these people say and command? You may say: "These are the ways we found our fathers (following)." [Koranic verse] God forbid that you be of the kind who were destined to suffer in shame and humiliation. We pray God to save you from the evils of Satan and to make you follow the book and its followers step by step and inch by inch so you can be rewarded by God, even if this will cost you to suffer the authority's oppression.

O Muslim 'ulema, O men of al-Azhar: This is your day in which you must speak the truth, separate the good from the bad, and guide the people to what pleases God in the affairs of their religion and life. Get together in a general conference of Muslim 'ulema, not in a conference inaugurated, financed, and inspired by the United States or anybody else of the enemies of Islam. Then tell the people where the truth and the falsehood are. Be bold in highlighting the views of Islam on what is of interest to Muslims. Tell the honest truth, as you will be called before God if you do not. Religion provides guidance to everyone, to the Muslim rulers and the people, as mentioned in the Prophet's sayings. Fear not the mighty ruler nor fear the oppression of an oppressor. The responsibility is great, and excuses will not help at the time of reckoning. 'Umar [the second caliph] told the simple people: "You are no good if you do not say it, and we are no good if we do not listen to it." This is how a Muslim ruler should be, listening to the truth and not being annoyed by it, and serving as a good example to his people. It was said in the past that "the people reflect their king's religion." The 'ulema must draw the attention of the ruler to what is good and warn him about what is evil. The 'ulema are the heirs of the prophets. Be such heirs with your good performance and work.

It is best for this enthusiastic minister who wants chaos, licentiousness, and immorality to stay home and leave his position to some one more capable of guiding the younger generations to what is good for their future and

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the future of their nation which is building its hopes on them and is preparing them to lead it toward a better future.

### Mufti Views Abortion in Pre-ICPD Meeting Statement

*NC2207163394 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jul 94 p 1*

[Report by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im]

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Sayyid Tantawi, the mufti of the Republic, has stated that the Egyptian Ifta' House "rejects any call for population control that conflicts with the rules of Islamic shari'ah and noble teachings, regardless of whether this call comes from the East or the West."

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHA'B, the mufti of the Republic said that abortion, which is the killing of the fetus while in its mother's womb or its removal, is religiously proscribed. He stated scholars are unanimous in proscribing abortion. He added that abortion is permissible only when the doctor is certain that the presence of the fetus means the death of the mother or if her health will be seriously impaired if the fetus remains in her womb.

The mufti noted that in 1989 he wrote a research paper in which he detailed his views on family planning.

The mufti was commenting on the clauses in the UN document that will be submitted to the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] scheduled for September. Abortion tops the list of these clauses.

On the other hand, Jalal al-Rashidi, the Housing Ministry's press counselor, stressed that Egypt, as the country hosting the ICPD, is currently in contact through diplomatic channels with various countries so that the Cairo Declaration—the document to be issued at the conclusion of the conference—will be flexible enough to give the participating countries the freedom to implement the resolutions that suit them in accordance with their own traditions, values, and conditions.

For its part, the executive committee of nongovernmental bodies, which was formed to prepare for the conference of private organizations and societies that will be held at the same time as the ICPD, held a news conference the day before yesterday. It was attended by committee Chairman 'Azizah Husayn, committee Secretary Muna Dhu-al-Fiqar, and committee member Dr. Samir 'Alish.

These officials explained that the committee began its work in 1992 to prepare for the conference by mobilizing private societies and organizations in Egypt and to prepare their representatives for the conference, which will be attended by 900 organizations from various countries.

Committee secretary Muna Dhu-al-Fiqar said that 400 private societies from all the governorates will take part in the conference. Six topics have been chosen for debate, and committees have been formed to discuss them and issue a document in the name of the Egyptian societies.

The committee decided to hold a two-day conference for the Arab organizations before the ICPD in order to coordinate positions and agree on the issues.

## Libya

### Information Secretary Comments on Lockerbie, Israel

*NC2307173194 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 18 Jul 94 pp 1, 6*

[Report by Nur-al-Huda Zaki]

[Text] In exclusive remarks to AL-'ARABI, Muhammad Ahmad Ibrahim, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Information, Culture, and Mass Mobilization, has stated that Libya has entrusted Egypt with the Lockerbie issue and that Egypt knows the limits permitted by Libyan law in this regard.

Asked about the reaction to Libya's latest proposal on the trial of the two Libyan suspects, he said he is not aware of any such reaction.

He added that the current Arab situation allows no room for new developments regarding Libya's dispute with the West and declared: "Libya has done everything possible to show its willingness to cooperate to find a legally and politically appropriate solution to this issue that would preserve Libya's independence and free will."

Asked about the prospects of having the two Libyans tried by Scottish judges, Ibrahim replied: "I know nothing about the Scottish judges affair. The Arab League proposed putting them on trial at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. This proposal is still on; the Arab League has not withdrawn it. We also agree to let them be tried in Egypt. Egypt is the same as Libya to us. Furthermore, we suggested from the beginning the possibility of the two suspects traveling anywhere in the world of their own free will. Libyan law, however, does not permit extraditing them to any other country."

Concerning Israel's invitation to Libya to recognize the Jewish state and back the peace agreements because this is the way that leads to a solution, the Libyan official declared: "What they call peace with Israel is nothing but humiliation, subjugation, and insult. We cannot recognize it even if the whole world does so. We will not recognize—not after a million years—the racist, Zionist, illegally established entity. As for those who wish to make agreements with it and offer concessions, let them do so. We are not planning to sign or make concessions. We are not Palestine's neighbors and we never fought

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there, so why should we make concessions, sign, and visit Israel? Is it to take our share of the shame? Our share will catch up with us, like all the Arabs."

Commenting on Libya's views on future relations with the Palestinian National Authority in Gaza and Jericho, he said: "Libya has recognized a state called Palestine led by President Yasir 'Arafat. It has allowed it to open an embassy in Tripoli. Libya did not recognize or establish a relationship with a tribal chieftain or a small locality's mukhtar. Libya is not concerned with Palestinian behavior. We shall cooperate with the Palestinians until our mutual enemy is destroyed."

I asked him about the prospects for Libyan aid to the newborn Palestinian media apparatus in Gaza and Jericho, an issue that was on the agenda at the Arab information ministers' conference. He said: "The Palestinian media apparatus is good; it is stronger than Libya's. It needs no assistance from the Arab League or Libya because it is backed by major powers like the United States and Israel."

Regarding the Arab information ministers' discussion of a joint Arab media strategy to confront extremism, the Libyan official said: "We are not concerned with confronting extremism in the Arab region. This is not an issue that we are handling. Our media confront international imperialism, Zionism, poverty, and backwardness. This issue of extremism does not concern us. Libya urged the other Arabs to give some serious thought to formulating a media strategy to confront the next century's requirements and to free the Arab media from Western hegemony and incursions."

Finally, commenting on Libya's contributions to Arab satellite communications programs, he said that Libya was among the earliest participants in the Arab satellite communications program and the Arab Satellite Communications Organization and has had a space channel for the past four years. He added: "Libya is looking forward to cooperation with other Arab, particularly Egyptian, media. Libya will also soon join the European satellite system."

### Egyptian Mediation Highlighted

*MM1907133994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jul 94 p4*

[Report on interview with Information Secretary Muhammad Ahmad Ibrahim by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] Libyan Information Secretary Ahmad Ibrahim has confirmed his country's willingness to hand over the two Lockerbie incident suspects for trial in Cairo if the other parties concerned accept that. In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the secretary called for an Arab summit conference before the end of this current year to discuss Arab concerns.

On the proposal calling for the trial of the suspects in Cairo, the Libyan secretary said: "We are content with what (Egyptian) President (Husni) Mubarak said, that this Egyptian-Libyan proposal was an attempt to close the Lockerbie file. We proposed numerous initiatives. What is important is that the Western parties accept them. Libya is willing to respond fully in the context of the Arab League resolutions and the efforts of the Egyptian leadership." In his view, Libya is not responsible for the deadlocked crisis. According to him, that deadlock is a result of the refusal of others to reach understanding through dialogue.

The secretary does not accept that the reason there is no solution to the Libyan-Western crisis is the lack of confidence in Tripoli's policy. He said: "On the contrary, Libya's policy is consistent and it seeks nothing more than protection of its national independence, territorial sovereignty, and national rights. In our foreign policy we apply the principle of open dialogue and respect for world peace. Despite the state's small size, we are the state which has made the biggest contribution to the development of Africa, Asia, and Latin America."

On Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's statements attacking the West and describing it as barbaric, having previously called for dialogue and cooperation, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked if the West would see in that some contradiction that would prevent it from cooperating with Tripoli. The secretary replied: "Let me explain these positions. When we accept cooperation the West rejects it. That is why the brother leader said they were barbarians. Still, we have no objection to dealing with them and we ask nothing more than mutual respect without undermining our sovereignty, territory, and independence. However, the midnight killing of children, women, and elderly people in Tripoli and Benghazi was not for Lockerbie. That problem did not exist at the time." The Libyan secretary wondered: "The United States severed its relations with us in 1979, 1980, and 1981 and imposed an economic blockade. We are trying to remember what crimes Libya committed at the time."

Secretary Ahmad Ibrahim described the Lockerbie crisis as a legal matter and added: "Let the evidence and the proof be presented and the suspects stand trial and end this crisis. A defendant is innocent until proven guilty. The solution currently proposed by the West is that Libya should lose its independence first, and that is something we will never accept."

On the Libyan people's suffering in this connection, he said: "We have submitted numerous reports to the United Nations on the losses resulting from the blockade and the Libyan people's suffering, but it seems that nobody reads these reports. The United Nations and the West do not care about the harm done to the people. As small nations we try to focus on development and on serving our own objectives. We have no armies capable of defeating or fighting the United States. All there is to it is that we want to be free." Asked if Libya had

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presented all the evidence in its possession to the United Nations to acquit itself, he replied: "We have presented much. Some elements in the case are of extreme importance. The reports of the German attorney general and his justice department completely deny that the bomb was planted in Germany and, therefore, the German judiciary believe that there was no charge to be made against the two Libyan suspects. Then there are the confessions of the company specialized in manufacturing the devices parts of which (the essence of the crime) they claim to have found. The company said that it had sold such devices to several parties and that Libya was not involved in the Lockerbie bombing. And there are numerous other pieces of evidence and developments, but who cares about the legal aspect of this case? Furthermore, the judiciary in the West is not independent, otherwise it would not have condoned the politicization of the case and the fact that it has been taken out of its legal context. We and the Arab brothers have made great efforts in search of a solution, and the Nonaligned Movement, the African summit, and the Arab League have issued resolutions, and most UN members including India and China, who together constitute half the world's population, have expressed solidarity with Libya, but in vain."

## Mauritania

### Taya Holds Meeting Malian Defense Minister

*LD2307215394 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya met earlier today with Malian Defense Minister Djonkounda Traore. Also attending was Mauritanian Defense Minister Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih.

Following the meeting, Traore issued a statement noting that the visit fell within the framework of the existing cooperation between the two countries.

Traore stressed that he was honored by the reception accorded to him by the president of the republic, who was considered a close friend of Mali.

Traore said that Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare charged him with conveying feelings of friendship and brotherhood to the Mauritian president.

Traore thanked the Mauritanian government and people for the support that Mauritania has continually afforded Mali.

### Troops Sent to Southeastern Border With Mali

*AB2207171094 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Text] Mauritania has just dispatched troops to the southeastern border with Mali, where renewed banditry has recently been reported. The sending of the troops is in conformity with the decisions made by the Mauritanian and Malian Governments to step up security at their borders with joint patrols. Here is Salem Meshbour Salem with a report from Nouakchott:

[Begin Salem recording] The Nouakchott government is beginning to take developments in the conflict between the Malian Tuaregs and their government serious. The Mauritanians on arriving in the east of the country reported a fresh outbreak of violence at the border. Clashes between the Malian Army and the Tuareg rebels have unavoidable effects on the Mauritanian borders, hence the sending from Nouakchott of this joint mission comprising state security and the Army, Gendarmerie, and National Guard. On the ground, the mission concluded that it is absolutely necessary to establish a new security mechanism for goods and people. Troops and armored vehicles were seen moving toward the tension area. Mauritania has hosted more than 100,000 Malian Tuareg rebels for several years now. The current situation in Mali is creating a fresh influx of civilians into Mauritania, where refugee camps are already overcrowded. [end recording]

### Economic Agreement Signed With Chinese Official

*LD2407222494 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Excerpts] Liu Shanzai, the Chinese vice minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation, and his accompanying delegation left Nouakchott this afternoon following a five-day working visit to our country. [passage omitted]

The Chinese vice minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation and Mr. Ch'bih Ould Shaykh Malainine, the Mauritanian minister of trade, handicraft, and tourism, signed this morning an agreement for economic and technical cooperation.

At the same ceremony, which was held at Senate House, the Chinese minister and the Abdallahi Ould Abdi, Mauritanian minister of civil service, labor, youth, and sport, signed a memorandum on the maintenance and the restoration of the Olympic Stadium.

The agreement also stipulated that the People's Republic of China will grant our country a 700 million Ouguiya interest-free loan to be used for developing the agreed economic and technical projects agreed between the two countries.

The PRC intends, within the framework of the above loan, to help our country to maintain and refurbish the Olympic Complex and the build a hotel near the Hall of Conferences.

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## Morocco

### Ambassador to Sudan Banned From Leaving Country

*LD2207225294 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Text] The Middle East News Agency, MENA, this evening said that Sudanese security services banned the Moroccan ambassador to Sudan, Abdel Khalek Ben Ibrahim, from leaving Sudan after he refused to open his luggage to airport officers considering it as a breach of international law and diplomatic traditions.

The Moroccan ambassador said that he would not allow such a breach to happen, while Sudanese customs officers insisted on opening his luggage. He was then banned from leaving the country the day before yesterday [21 July].

The Moroccan ambassador informed the Moroccan Foreign Ministry of the incident that hindered his trip back to Morocco.

### Sudan Blames 'Individual' for Dispute

*LD2407104494 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0950 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jul—Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih yesterday evening confirmed that Abdel Khalek Ben Ibrahim, Morocco's ambassador in Khartoum, had been prevented from leaving Khartoum airport, explaining that the incident had been "the action of an individual."

In a statement to Omdurman radio, Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih explained that the necessary measures have been taken with regard to those responsible for the incident.

In this regard, the Sudanese foreign minister hailed the Moroccan ambassador's efforts to develop cooperation between Morocco and Sudan.

The Egyptian AKHBAR AL-YAWM reported that the security authorities at Khartoum airport prevented the Moroccan ambassador in Khartoum from leaving the country after he refused to allow airport officers to open his bags as he considered this to be a breach of [word indistinct] law.

### Oppositionist on Release of Political Prisoners

*LD2207220394 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Text] This evening we have an interview with Abraham Serfati, the exiled Moroccan opposition figure. Murielle Pomponne began by asking him what his reaction was to the royal pardon granted to 424 political prisoners:

[Begin recording] [Serfati] We must first of all note that this is a first victory for the Moroccan people, an important victory, as well as a victory for our friends who have supported us across the world in our struggle for human rights in Morocco. We must therefore rejoice at this, especially for those who have come out.

It is, however, only a first victory. There is the important problem of those who have disappeared which has not been solved, and there is the problem of the exiles which is not really being addressed. Beyond that, however, beyond this first move, we must see how we progress toward democracy in Morocco. We are not there yet. The whole system of control of society remains in place, and there cannot be any true democracy in Morocco unless we finally accept a democratic constitution, drawn up democratically by the representatives of the people.

[Pomponne] Do these releases nevertheless hold any political significance for you?

[Serfati] Oh yes, no one can deny their political significance. It is clear that the Moroccan authorities are trying to build bridges with the opposition. The question is whether the opposition—which can only welcome these releases which it has always demanded—can be sufficiently satisfied with this to become the hostage of the Moroccan authorities within a future government.

This is the basic question, because, in order to govern, you have to be able to change things, and it is not a coalition government, within the framework of the current Constitution, which will seriously be able to change things.

[Pomponne] You do not believe that there is yet any real democracy in Morocco?

[Serfati] No, no. We have made an important breakthrough, since there are virtually no more political prisoners—there are still a few, but these are particular cases. This is an important step, but it is not enough. We need democratic structures, which we are still far from having in Morocco.

[Pomponne] Do you think that dialogue is possible with the king after this step he has taken?

[Serfati] I do not know. I cannot say personally. I have never turned political problems into personal issues. I say that there are some fundamental demands. If King Hassan II is prepared to satisfy those fundamental demands, then all the better of course. If he cannot, however, if he is held back by a number of internal structures within his own system of power, then that authority has to change, even if the regime itself survives, albeit in a modernized form.

[Pomponne] Have you thought of returning to Morocco in light of this amnesty?

[Serfati] Of course, more than ever. The only thing is that, on the one hand my current state of health, as well as the current state of affairs, mean that the conditions of my return...[pauses] I will have to see within a month or

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two how this could take place, but in any case I am quite determined to return. [end recording]

### Human Rights Council Holds News Conference

*LD2207232194 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The chairman and members of the Consultative Council for Human Rights held a meeting today with national and international members of the press following the decision of King Hassan II concerning general amnesty after the approval by His Majesty King Hassan II of the resolution submitted by the members of the council to his majesty. Here follows a detailed report on this news conference:

In his replies to various questions, the Chairman of the Consultative Council for Human Rights, Mr. Mohamed Mikou stressed that the concept for defining to whom applies the description of political prisoner emanated from the contents of the amended constitution of 1992 which stipulates also that the Kingdom of Morocco affirms its adherence to human rights as known internationally.

[Passage omitted] The members of the Council pointed out that the other 413 people whose names appeared in the second list of those encompassed by the royal pardon were categorized by the Council after judgement reached by its members that they are the persons who carried out, through trade unionist or political activity, acts related to painful incidents.

The members of the Council stressed that all the people whose names appeared in the first [political prisoners] and second list were released and pointed out that some of them were released last night and the remaining others were freed this morning.

[Passage omitted] [Council member] *If you would allow me brothers, I have just had a telephone contact with the justice minister, and I once more reaffirmed that everyone has been released. If there was one single case, and the justice minister wanted now, at this moment, the name and the date of arrest, but the name should be in either of the two lists, and I would suggest to you, with the permission of the chairman of the council, to set up a cell as from this moment about this issue to receive any observation about any detainee, and we emphasise once more, who is on the list and has not been released [sentence as heard].*

[Passage omitted] [Council member] *The Consultative Council for Human Rights has unanimously endorsed what it has presented to his majesty. All the national political parties, all Moroccan trade unions, and all the nongovernmental organizations interested in human rights, are represented in the Consultative Council for Human Rights. Following an in-depth study, all those said that the number of political prisoners in Morocco was 11 [repeated once in Arabic and once in French].*

[Announcer] [Passage omitted] The council members affirmed that any immigrant Moroccan could apply to the Moroccan consulate in his area of residence to obtain a passport and facilitate his return to his country, including the special administrative measures on crossing points. They pointed out that the royal pardon has become binding on everyone.

[Council member] *In our opinion, those people, from whom we exclude those who are against Morocco's territorial integrity, which is a basic thing, whoever among those who wants to return to his country should apply to the Moroccan consulates to obtain a passport and return to Morocco.*

[Passage omitted]

[Announcer] Members of the Council pointed out that some people in exile benefitted from a particular international situation to obtain the right of political asylum and stressed that in the light of a change of this situation, Morocco opened its doors to its sons to return to the homeland in the framework of the defined conditions of amnesty.

[Passage omitted] The members pointed out that Morocco would fight in the future for supporting human rights in the world. The members of the Council called in this respect for putting an end to the sufferings of those detained in Tindouf whose dignity is not considered at all and whose rights to express their will are denied. [passage omitted]

## Sudan

### Cease-fire Announced; Renewed Fighting Reported

#### Government Issues Statement

*EA2207182094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Statement issued by the Presidency of the Republic and read by Culture and Information Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God and blessings and peace be upon God's messenger. Here is a statement from the Presidency of the Republic:

Honorable compatriots: The Government of Sudan has always stressed its eagerness to establish peace in the homeland's regions after the war which was imposed on us and our compatriots and which brought calamities which led to shortage of funds, loss of lives and productivity. The search for and entrenchment of peace have been firmly pursued by the government in all its moves and initiatives. The dialogue conferences have always called for a halt to the drain in resources and blood and

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the squandering of the homeland's resources on infighting. The government affirmed its constant interest in the cease-fire throughout the years of the National Salvation Revolution government and since its first statement on 30 June 1989.

The government has also continued to hold intensive contacts and made earnest efforts for dialogue and meeting with the rebel movement, starting with Addis Ababa, Nairobi, the first Abuja, Nigeria negotiations, and the last Abuja negotiations, as well as negotiations in Bonn and Washington, and the ongoing Nairobi meetings, in the hope that they will be crowned by a permanent peace agreement.

Despite all those efforts and endeavors, the rebel movement has continued with its transgression, obstinacy, and its determination to ensure that the homeland sheds the last drop of its dear blood. The rebel movement has never complied with those initiatives and the cease-fire declaration. Rather, it has continued its aggressions and attacks, benefiting from the cease-fire declared by the government and exploiting this break as an opportunity for aggression and expansion.

Honorable compatriot brothers: Credit is due to the efforts of the friends, namely neighbors in Africa, for facilitating the meetings between the Sudanese Government and the rebel movement for the sake of stability in Sudan, in particular, and in the African Continent, in general. To the same extent, the rebel movement has continued its obstinacy and rejected all those worthy efforts. It insisted on foiling Nigeria's kind initiative. Indeed, it has even gone further than that. It interrupted the movement of the UN's relief aid for the war victims. It plundered the relief aid and deprived the hungry of food and security.

The Sudanese Government values and appreciates the kind initiatives of its brothers in IGADD. Indeed, it confirms by a frank statement and effective action, its support for this useful initiative. It now reaffirms its complete readiness to make these efforts successful until final peace is achieved.

To confirm this readiness, the Government of Sudan responds to the request made by His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi, president of the Republic of Kenya, on behalf of his brothers, the presidents of the IGADD states, by declaring a cease-fire as a sign of rendering successful the ongoing negotiations in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. However, the Government of Sudan knows in advance, from its bitter and repeated experiences, that the rebel movement retreats from its promises, makes false statements, violates cease-fires, and plants mines to halt the administrative military movement of the Armed Forces.

Despite all its experiences with the rebel movement, the Government of Sudan is responding, especially, to the request of the Kenyan leader and the brother leaders of the IGADD for a unilateral cease-fire declaration because of its desire to support the negotiations and to create an atmosphere conducive to the (?achievement) of peace.

The Sudanese Government hereby declares a cease-fire and orders its Armed Forces not to open fire in the operational areas in southern Sudan, except in self-defense. This order is valid with effect from midnight on 23 July. The objective of the means rests with God. Peace, God's mercy, and blessings be upon you.

### Officials Hail Declaration

*EA2307191994 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Retired Major General Dominic Kassiano, the minister of labor and administrative reform, has described the government's declaration of a unilateral ceasefire as an important step toward achieving peace and turning to construction and development. He said, in a statement to the radio, that the negotiations now going on in Nairobi between the government's delegation and the two factions of the rebel movement will be positive for the sake of reaching a radical solution to halt the fighting and achieve a final peace. For his part, Major General Muhammad Abdullah Uwaydah, chairman of the security and defense committee in the Transitional National Assembly, said the government's decision to declare a unilateral cease-fire confirms its rejection of war. It also represents an earnest step to successfully carry out the Intergovernmental Agency on Drought and Development's initiative to establish peace in the country. Major General Uwaydah added that this decision requires the adoption of a similar stand by the rebel movement.

### Rebels Claim Truce 'Illusion'

*AB2307161994 Paris AFP in English 1550 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Nairobi, July 23 (AFP)—A spokesman for the mainstream faction of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Saturday [23 July] dismissed as illusory a unilateral ceasefire declaration by the Khartoum government.

The government on Friday announced a truce to take effect from midnight Saturday (2100 GMT) in its war with the SPLA saying it was responding to an appeal by Kenya's President Daniel arap Moi.

But SPLA spokesman Steven Wondu said in Nairobi: "There was no ceasefire at all." He accused government troops of launching ground and air attacks in areas north of the town of Nimule, near the Ugandan border, even as Khartoum was announcing the truce.

Wondu said heavy fighting was raging in the region, adding that the SPLA would only consider responding to a ceasefire if it was overseen by international monitors.

A third round of peace talks between the government and the two rival factions of the SPLA is currently going

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on in Nairobi. The negotiations are sponsored by the Inter-governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGAAD), a regional six-member body, grouping Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. Kenya is chairing the meeting.

The SPLA has been fighting the government since 1983 in an attempt to free the mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan from domination by the Moslem north.

### SPLA Reports Heavy Fighting

*EA2407191994 Kampala Radio Uganda Network in English 1700 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] There has been intensive fighting between the Sudan Government troops and the main rebel group, SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], at Nimule near the Uganda border with Sudan. A spokesman of the rebel SPLA, led by Colonel John Garang, said intensive fighting has been going on despite a cease-fire announced by the government. He said government troops have kept up ground and air attacks. But the government says there is no more fighting. The talks between the two sides are due to resume in Nairobi tomorrow.

### Minister Denies Moroccan Envoy Kept From Departing

*EA2307192594 Khartoum SUNA in English 1643 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Khartoum, 23 July (SUNA)—Minister of foreign affairs Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih has Saturday [23 July] denied that customs authorities at Khartoum airport had prohibited departure of the Moroccan ambassador here via Khartoum airport.

Speaking to SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) Dr. Abu-Salih said: What had happened was an individual act by a citizen, noting that the necessary measures had been taken on the issue.

The concerned authorities have expressed their regret over the issue to the ambassador who enjoys respect and appreciation by all state officials for the vital role he plays in promotion of Sudan-Morocco cooperation.

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## Yemen

### 2 U.S. Nationals Killed in Aden Explosion

*NC2407122294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] According to reports from Aden, two U.S. citizens were killed when a mine planted under their car exploded. It should be recalled that the southern forces had planted several mines around Aden during the northern troops' siege of the town in July.

### Northern Troops Fire on Protesters in al-Mukalla

*NC2307145894 Paris AFP in English 1400 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Sanaa, July 23 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni troops opened fire on protestors in the southeastern port city of al-Mukalla, killing and wounding several people, a Western diplomat said here Saturday [23 July].

Hundreds of southern Yemenis had gathered Thursday to protest against "the massive presence of northern troops" in the city, 700 kilometres (434 miles) east of Aden, the diplomat said.

Northern troops opened fire and "the shots caused casualties among the demonstrators," the source said, without giving exact figures.

Al-Mukalla, the second largest city in southern Yemen with 130,000 residents, was captured by northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on July 4.

Southern breakaway leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid was born in the city, and moved his headquarters there from Aden shortly after civil war broke out on May 5. He fled to Oman when al-Mukalla fell.

Salih's troops seized control of Aden on July 7, ending the war.

Since the war ended, dozens of people have been killed and wounded by explosions in minefields in southern Yemen, a diplomat close to international aid groups in Sanaa said.

"Dozens of civilians have fallen victim to explosions in minefields, especially in the Aden, Lahij, Abyan and Hadhramaut regions," the source said.

The minefields were mainly around strategic and military sites, but some were also near residential areas, he added.

The local authorities, lacking equipment and qualified experts, were unable to clear the minefields, and no maps showing the location of the mines were available.

"The United Nations should help to clear these minefields," he said.

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in late 1993 banning the use of all types of mines in regional conflicts, he recalled.

### Spokesman Denies Report on Shooting

*NC2307185494 Paris AFP in English 1658 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Excerpt] Sanaa, July 23 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni troops opened fire on protestors in the southeastern port city of al-Mukalla, killing and wounding several people, a western diplomat said here Saturday [23 July].

A northern Yemeni official spokesman later denied the report.

The diplomat said hundreds of southern Yemenis had gathered Thursday to protest against "the massive presence of northern troops" in the city, 700 kilometres (434 miles) east of Aden.

Northern troops opened fire and "the shots caused casualties among the demonstrators," the source said, without giving exact figures.

The northern spokesman, quoted by the official news agency Saba, said the report was "totally groundless."

"The situation in Hadhramaut province is calm and the armed forces are posted in their barracks. They are not in the city" of Mukalla, capital of Hadhramaut, he said. [passage omitted]

### Muslim Fundamentalists Said To Attack Aden Church

*NC2307061094 Paris AFP in English 0357 GMT 23 July 94*

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 23 (AFP)—A group of Muslims attacked and almost completely wrecked a Catholic church Friday [22 July] in Aden, southern Yemen, police said.

A police source who asked to remain anonymous said "armed fundamentalists" attacked the church at al-Tawahi, central Aden, during the afternoon, destroying the interior and windows.

An AFP correspondent said the cross atop the church had been ripped off, and the doors and windows had been smashed in.

The 19th century building served employees of western companies and diplomatic missions.

Hundreds of political prisoners, including Muslim militants in the Jihad movement, have been set free in southern Yemen in recent days following the victory by northern forces in a two-month civil war to beat back a secessionist attempt by southern leaders, who have since fled abroad.

Several militants in the Islamic al-Islah movement who fought in the conflict entered Aden, the principal southern city, when it fell to northern forces on July 7.

Al-Islah is the sworn enemy of the Yemeni Socialist Party, whose leaders launched the bid to secede from the north. Both organisations are members of the government coalition in Sanaa.

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Islamic groups are looking to extend their influence over Yemen's political future, and have demanded the imposition of the shari'ah or Islamic law to cover the whole of the country as its "sole source of legislation."

### Aden Citizens Flogged by Party for Drinking Alcohol

*LD2507085894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0721 GMT 25 Jul 94*

[Text] Aden, 25 Jul (KUNA)—The struggle between the Yemeni Reform Grouping, Islah, which is lead by [Shaykh 'Abdallah] Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, and the supporters of the Socialist Party has entered a serious stage following the flogging of a number of Aden residents who were accused of drinking alcohol.

Eyewitnesses have told KUNA's correspondent that some residents of the city were subjected last night to harassment and inhuman treatment by members of the Islah Party who were looking for weapons and alcoholic beverages. The eyewitnesses said that 20 Aden residents were publicly flogged in front of their families when they were accused of drinking alcohol following a visit to a hotel for tourists.

The Yemeni authorities have banned the sale and the drinking of alcohol beverages in the southern provinces following their capture at the end of the war between northern and southern forces.

A citizen from Aden, called Hisham Ahmad 'Ali, has described the actions of the elements of the Islah Party as a "clear vendetta against the sons of the south" who are still supporting the Socialist Party but who have refused to take part in sabotage activities at the end of the war between the northern and southern forces.

Yemeni Interior Minister Brigadier Yahya al-Mutawakkil, has reiterated, in a statement to KUNA, that the flogging of a number of citizens in the south by elements of the Islah Party, which is led by the speaker of the House of Representatives, is "categorically unlawful." He pointed out that he has given orders that such elements should not take part in the search for weapons and ammunition.

### Victors Searching Aden Homes for Arms, Not Officials

*MM2207160394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Jul 94 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Iqbal 'Abdallah: "Weapons Found in Graveyard, Scud Missiles Uncovered"]

[Excerpts] Aden—Security forces, supported by groups from the Reform Grouping led by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahamr, speaker of the House of Representatives, began yesterday to search citizens' houses in Aden.

A security official told AL-HAYAH that "searching houses falls within the framework of looking for arms, alcoholic drinks, and equipment stolen from government institutions, missions, and consulates." The official, who asked to remain anonymous, denied that "the aim of the operation is to arrest Southern civilian and military officials." He stressed that "Reform Grouping elements' participation is designed to guarantee that the search operation is conducted safely and without any violation of citizens' rights or dignity." [passage omitted]

Military sources have said that "security forces yesterday discovered huge quantities of various types of weapons, ammunition, and explosives in the Sha'b al-'Aydarus graveyard in the Crater area near the house of Socialist Party leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid." The sources also said that "the rebel and secessionist forces of the Socialist Party had tampered with the tombs to conceal the weapons after they sensed that the forces of unity and legitimacy were about to enter Aden."

The same sources spoke on the evening before last about "the discovery of a number of Scud missiles in a mountain location in Crater."

Meanwhile a Sanaa official contacted from Aden yesterday said that "a number of Southern military officials who fled Aden to Djibouti when the forces of unity and legitimacy entered the city have returned to Sanaa aboard a special plane provided for these military officials on instructions from Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council."

The official added in a statement to AL-HAYAH that "other military groups and a number of former civilian officials have requested to return in accordance with the general amnesty decision issued by the Presidential Council on 6 July."

The Sanaa official declined to name any of the Southern officials who, he said, had requested to return. [passage omitted]

### Salih: No Discrimination in Treatment of People

*JN2507082994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Jul 94*

[Excerpts] Presidential Council Chairman Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih met yesterday with the brother shaykhs, social figures, representatives of political parties and groupings, and the sons of the Armed Forces and Public Security in al-Dali' District and al-Shu'ayb Subdistrict in the Lahij Governorate. Those attending voiced their support for unity. They also blessed the great successes our Yemeni people have scored to consolidate unity and proceed with their blessed march under the canopy of unity and democracy to translate the aspired goals of building a new Yemen. [passage omitted]

Addressing them, the brother chairman said he is happy with this unionist meeting which takes place after the

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sedition the rebels ignited in the homeland under traitor al-Bid. He said that the rebels sought to fragment the homeland and abort the great historical achievement that was attained on 22 May 1990. [passage omitted]

The brother chairman spoke about the general amnesty law. He said that it covers all civilians and military who should benefit from it. He added that the military will return to the units of the Armed Forces which were merged on national and scientific bases to act as a safety valve for unity and democracy, and to defend the homeland's sovereignty and independence. The civilians will also return to their positions within the framework of the Civil Service Law.

The brother chairman stressed the importance of pooling all Yemeni efforts to build Yemen, and overcome all the obstacles caused by the gang of rebellion and secession.

The brother chairman said: We are ready to tackle any problem, and, in time, all issues will be settled. We will deal with everything in the spirit of the one homeland, without discrimination, because everyone is the son of this homeland which needs the efforts of all its sons in this important stage of its history.

### Al-Lawzi Discusses Next Moves, New Government

*NC2207134694 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Jul 94 p 6*

[Excerpts] Yemeni Information Minister Hasan al-Lawzi has said the participation of political parties in the government will be broadened, the burden of national responsibility will be collectively borne, damage will be repaired, and those harmed by the recent military operations will be compensated.

In a seminar with AL-AHRAM editors organized by the Arab Affairs Section and the Political Studies Center, al-Lawzi said the Yemeni Armed Forces will be reorganized into an institution directly affiliated with the state, away from party allegiances.

He said Yemen chose the mechanism of the market and free economy as a way to economic development and a parallel line to political freedom.

He stressed that the freedom of the press and the media will not be relinquished despite some recent violations by the press.

At the outset of the seminar the Yemeni information minister said the conflict that began and ended in Yemen was the result of a group in the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party stubbornly disavowing even the ideas of their own party and selling themselves out to others to destroy Yemen, seize power, and serve foreign ambitions. The plan, he explained, was to start with military sedition in regions bordering Sanaa before moving to other regions. He said foreign forces devoted huge capabilities and resources—money and media and diplomatic work—to disintegrate Yemen and realize illegitimate objectives in the country.

He added: We are proud of the positions of many fraternal countries that supported us in this crisis, including the Egyptian position, which did not relinquish Yemen's unity; it supported democracy and constitutional legitimacy. [passage omitted]

On the formation of the next government, al-Lawzi said the three main parties will continue to be represented in the government in the same proportions as they are now. But some General People's Congress ministers will leave the government to make room on the Yemeni stage for ministers from other parties, such as the Ba'thists and the Nasirites, he said. All the Yemeni parties supported unity and legitimacy and stood against secession and it is their right to participate in the executive power, al-Lawzi added. [passage omitted]

### 'Abd-al-Ghani Leaves for Oman With Message for Qabus

*JN2307142294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Presidential Council member left Sanaa for Muscat this morning heading a large delegation comprising brother 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi, deputy prime minister; 'Ali Mansur Rashid and 'Abdallah al-Bari, Presidential Council's advisers; Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Batami, minister of social security and social affairs; and a number of officials. The delegation will pay an official visit to the fraternal Sultanate of Oman that will last for several days.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the Presidential Council member expressed pleasure to be visiting Oman and sharing the brothers' celebrations [of Qabus' assumption of power]. He said he is carrying a message from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, to his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani emphasized that the Republic of Yemen is eager to bolster bilateral fraternal relations and develop them in the best possible way.

He added that during his visit to the sisterly Sultanate of Oman he will exchange views with the officials there on developments in Yemen and the region, especially that security and stability have been reinforced in the region following the defeat of the forces of rebellion and secession in our country.

He stressed that Yemen's unity and territorial integrity are important for security and peace in the region.

He concluded his statement by expressing confidence that the visit will succeed in developing bilateral relations in a way that will serve the joint interests, under the leadership of Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

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The Presidential Council member was seen off by a number of officials and the Omani ambassador to our country.

### Nominations Accepted for Presidential Council Seat

*JN2307124294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] The office of the speaker of the House of Representatives held a meeting at 1330 today in which it approved the final draft of the message addressed to the Presidential Council chairman congratulating him for the victories against the forces of secession and apostasy along the road of entrenching the pillars of blessed unity. The message emphasizes the need to correct the conditions, repair flaws in all government establishments, and end financial and administrative corruption so that efforts will focus on building a prosperous Yemen that enjoys security and stability.

The speaker's office decided to accept nominations for the vacant seat on the Presidential Council, in accordance with Article 83 of the Constitution, and Article 165 of the House's bylaws.

### Al-Attas To Lead Delegation to Talks With North

*LD2207221394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Text] Aden, 22 Jul—The Kuwaiti news agency, KUNA, has learned here today that the former prime minister in the former self-declared republic in south Yemen, Haydar Abu Bakr al-Attas, will lead the southern delegation to the talks due to be held between northern and southern Yemeni figures in the French capital at the end of this month, July.

Yemeni sources in Aden said that the southern delegation would also include Abdallah al-Asnaj, who occupied the post of foreign minister in the self-declared republic in south Yemen last May. The northern delegation would be led by the minister of planning and development, 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani.

Al-Iryani will be accompanied by one of the senior advisers to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Yemen's representative at the United Nations, 'Abdallah al-Ashtal.

The northern-southern Yemeni dialogue is expected to be held in Paris on 28 July.

In another development, reports in Aden today said that Butrus-Ghali's special envoy to Yemen, Lakhdar Brahimi, intends to visit Yemen, within a Gulf tour in the near future, to make the final arrangements to start the Paris meetings.

### Exiled Southern Leaders To Meet in Damascus

*NC2307111494 Paris AFP in English 1034 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Dubai, July 23 (AFP)—Exiled leaders of the southern Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) will meet in Damascus "in the next 48 hours" to discuss the party's future in post-civil war Yemen, a YSP politburo member said Saturday [23 July].

Salim Salih Muhammad, sheltering in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah, told AFP the meeting would focus on "future political action by the YSP, in the light of present circumstances in the country."

Most of the party's leaders fled abroad after the end of Yemen's two-month civil war on July 7, when northern troops seized the south's stronghold of Aden.

Muhammad ruled out the participation of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, self-declared president of breakaway south Yemen, in the meeting.

Al-Bid fled to Oman just before the end of the war, where he gave up politics for good according to Muscat.

Muhammad, who is in touch with the YSP leader, said: "Al-Bid has neither confirmed nor denied the announcement of this decision, and has not said whether he planned to take part in the Damascus meeting."

He said the meeting would be open to all 16 of the YSP's 22 politburo members who are in exile abroad.

Two politburo members, Salih Munassar al-Siyli, ex-governor of Aden, and former oil minister Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, were killed during fighting, Muhammad said.

The four remaining members are at Sanaa where "they have contacts with northern authorities to iron out differences between the two parties and contribute to national reconciliation," he said.

The YSP is officially part of Yemen's governing coalition, alongside the General People's Congress of President 'Ali Abdallah Salih and the Islamic al-Islah party.

Months of tension in the coalition erupted into civil war on May 5 between northern forces loyal to Salih and those of his southern rival al-Bid.

The south declared the breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic two weeks later.

### Al-Jifri Says al-Bid To Resume Political Action

*JN2307144894 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p 1*

[Report on telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, "southern Yemeni vice president," by Sa'ud al-Rayyis in al-Dammam; date not given]

[Excerpt] 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, southern Yemeni vice president, has denied reports that [southern Yemeni] President 'Ali Salim al-Bid decided to quit political action. In a telephone interview with AL-YAWM, he said that President al-Bid is resting temporarily because of his health condition and that he officially delegated him to continue work and resistance

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against the northern forces and to liberate southern Yemen. Al-Jifri said that President al-Bid will soon resume his work in order to follow-up the issue of his country, noting that reports about his retirement are fabricated.

As for moves by the southern leadership at this stage, al-Jifri revealed that a meeting will be held between the northern and southern Yemeni sides in Paris next Thursday [28 July]. Attending on the southern Yemeni side will be Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister in southern Yemen, and 'Abdallah al- Asnaj, the foreign minister. Attending on the northern Yemeni side will be 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, [minister of planning and development], and 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, [Yemeni permanent representative to the United Nations].

Al-Jifri said that this unconditional meeting will be held in coordination with UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi. He noted that the northern side requested that 'Abd-al-Wahab al-Anisi, [the deputy prime minister], attend the meeting, while the southern side requested the attendance of Muhsin Muhammad Abu-Bakr al-Gharib, southern Yemeni deputy prime minister. [passage omitted]

### South's al-Asnaj on War's Aftermath, Plans

*NC2407101094 London MBC Television in Arabic 2140 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Interview with 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, "foreign minister of south Yemen," by Tawfiq Jazulit; place and date not given; from the "Face to Face" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Jazulit] The war between north and south Yemen has resulted in the destruction of most of the south's military machine. At the same time, most of the southern leaders are outside Yemen. There is a Yemeni adage that says: Anyone outside of Yemen will find it difficult to return. Since your declared ambition is to return to Yemen, or at least to the southern governorates if you can, how will you do this?

[Al-Asnaj] There is another Yemeni adage which says that Sanaa can be reached, though the road might be very long. Camels, donkeys, and mules were the means of transport to Sanaa in the past; travel now is by jet. I do not believe that the Yemenis are ignorant of the axiom that it is impossible for a situation to last forever. There were republicans and royalists in north Yemen. The royalists returned to Yemen and became active participants. Some of the them were leaders in the unity government. A Yemeni's return to his homeland is not difficult or impossible.

[Jazulit] But, having lost the war, your political stand is now weak?

[Al-Asnaj] Any political stand undoubtedly becomes weak after a military defeat. But the question is: When one has a political right, will he continue to demand this right? I believe that the Yemenis in the south are committed to their full political rights and are struggling for them. They will not let such rights be easy prey for those who want to control and rule in the name of democracy, the Constitution, and legitimacy. Anyone who claims to uphold these ideals should prove that he is qualified to do so.

[Jazulit] Do you not believe that the southern state you proclaimed is finished and that it is your duty as part of the southern leadership to prepare for an effective dialogue with Sanaa so as to save whatever can be salvaged and rebuild Yemen?

[Al-Asnaj] This is an important question. But what is more important is to understand why the government of the republic of Yemen [in the south] was established.

[Jazulit] Why was it established?

[Al-Asnaj] It was established to demand equal opportunities, rights, and citizenship. All Yemenis must have equal rights and duties. To discriminate and to concentrate absolute and inflexible central control in Sanaa would be wrong and would bring many troubles to Yemen. I believe that the Yemeni people have discarded this obsolete concept and have a new political, economic, and social concept. If Sanaa does not accept this new concept, then it would be pushing Yemen toward instability, sedition, and civil wars whose consequences are known only but God.

[Jazulit] Do you believe that the southern masses support you?

[Al-Asnaj] The southern people speak for themselves. The southerners and all Yemeni citizens in the south believe that there must be justice and equality. Otherwise, the problem will persist, though it might remain calm for some time.

[Jazulit] The war has undoubtedly created a new political situation in Yemen in general and in Sanaa in particular. How do you see the current political situation in Sanaa?

[Al-Asnaj] Regarding the political situation in Sanaa, anyone who wins a bet hopes to get his award. The award here is a share of the power.

[Jazulit] Do you mean the Reform Grouping, for example?

[Al-Asnaj] All those who took part: the Reform Grouping, the Iraqi Ba'th Party, and those supported by Sudan, Iran, and Qatar. All these latter countries saw in the Yemeni tragedy an opportunity for achieving political objectives, settling old accounts, or for gaining a foothold in the Arabian peninsula and the Gulf. All these forces might or might not be attuned to each other but they unanimously agreed to harm the Yemeni people in the south. God and history will judge them. All these forces are now in Sanaa and each one of them wants its share of power.

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[Jazulit] On the basis of this answer and for the record: President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is insisting on the Yemeni Socialist Party's [YSP] participation—and I know that you are not an YSP member—in the government to be announced in the coming days. If you as a southern leader are asked to deal with Sanaa, will you accept the offer within the context of the dialogue?

[Al-Asnaj] Let me speak on behalf of the YSP, though I have no authority to do so and I am not a member. The YSP and all its leaders—whether inside the country or abroad—have announced their willingness to start a dialogue on an equal footing to put an end to the existing grave situation, which could worsen. A military victory does not mean there will be a political solution. Stability in Yemen requires equality, integration, and better treatment when it comes to citizens' rights. These rights are the basis of the Pledge and Accord Document; they mean establishing local government in all Yemen's governorates.

[Jazulit] Do you want the Pledge and Accord Document to continue in force or do you believe that its role ended with the war?

[Al-Asnaj] I want to go on record for the sake of history and truth: The YSP repeatedly declared its commitment to the Pledge and Accord document. All the other national forces did the same. A message from the acting prime minister in Sanaa was delivered to the UN secretary general stating a commitment to this document, among other things. By this, I mean human rights and compensation for the citizens who have lost property and relatives in the war. This was announced by Sanaa itself. But it was also announced during the war that the president had canceled the Pledge and Accord Document.

[Jazulit] In your capacity as foreign minister of the republic declared in southern Yemen, what is your assessment of the UN's position on the bloody conflict that broke out in Yemen?

[Al-Asnaj] The UN, or rather the Security Council with which we have been dealing in recent times, reflects the desires of the majority of its members, each according to its relative influence. Naturally it is no secret to say that the United States is the...

[Jazulit, interrupting] But the U.S. position has not been clear from the start of the war, particularly with respect to the fate of your declared republic.

[Al-Asnaj] And it will not be clear with respect to any similar issue or one close to our case, unless it is of interest to the United States or likely to affect its interests directly.

[Jazulit] So the United States has let you down...

[Al-Asnaj, interrupting] We were not counting on it. In my view, I was not aware of the existence of any assurances—I do not say guarantees but assurances—by Washington with regard to...

[Jazulit, interrupting] But Washington drew a red line at Aden, and yet the northern troops managed to enter Aden and the United States did not do anything about it.

[Al-Asnaj] The United States' public stands did not conform with what you have just said. Washington did not regard Aden as a red line which, if crossed by the northerners, would harm the U.S. interests beyond that line.

[Jazulit] Yemen is geographically situated on the Arabian Peninsula; and generally speaking, the Arab Gulf states have undoubtedly been closely watching the military and political developments in Yemen. How do you view the positions of the Gulf states and what is your impression of the position of the Gulf officials in general and Saudi Arabia in particular on the war in general and you, as southerners, in particular?

[Al-Asnaj] There was adequate understanding of what was really happening in Yemen. There was also an appreciation of the background of the conflict that later on turned into an open war between the two parts of Yemen. Naturally, efforts were made to contain the matter before it developed into open war. Appeals were made by UAE President Shaykh Zayid, Egyptian President Mubarak, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Saudi King Fahd, Kuwait, and Oman. In general, the Gulf states have acted as a brother who is keen on averting a destructive war in Yemen and containing this war by means of a dialogue among Yemeni parties. Also, there was enough sympathy for the southerners' view calling for equitable unity and the need to avoid imposing unity by military might.

[Jazulit] You are about to participate in a meeting in Paris on 28 July under UN auspices. How do you foresee the coming political era in Yemen in general and how could political stability, which is a source of concern for all Yemenis, be achieved?

[Al-Asnaj] In my meeting, along with brother Haydar al-'Attas, with brothers al-Iryani and al-Ashtal, we shared some common concerns that, as a result of the failure of the Yemenis to get together, Yemen could be pushed toward civil wars. The oppressed side, driven by a sense of disappointment, could once again force a military confrontation, which would not be hard in today's world. Sanaa, although militarily the winner, cannot afford not to find political solutions satisfactory to the southern parties. I personally warn that any attempt at polarization will only act like a painkiller: Comforting but not curing. There must be a sincere, genuine, and clear-cut desire for a dialogue between the YSP as a major party, along with the other national forces that complement it, on one hand, and the General People's Congress and the Reform Grouping on the other. If the Reform Grouping agrees to be a third party, along with the YSP...

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[Jazulit, interrupting] It refuses to do this. The statements made by Grouping leaders al-Zindani and Shaykh al-Ahmar make it clear that they refuse to deal with the YSP. So how do you see the future relationship, bearing in mind that the Reform Grouping has taken part in the dialogue and contributed heavily to Sanaa's triumph in the war and therefore expects to be given a place in the government. And I believe it will get such place. So how could you deal with the Reform Grouping if it refuses to deal with the YSP in the first place?

[Al-Asnaj] Before the war, the Grouping agreed to deal with and cooperate with the YSP. It was a party to a tripartite coalition. It accepted the results of the war, accepted a Constitution that it had formerly rejected, and accepted a charter on which it had many reservations. We have a duty to spare Yemen from who knows what fate. And the brothers in the Reform Grouping should realize that their intransigence and failure to handle the current situation responsibly and intelligently will have unpredictable consequences for Yemen, for which many innocent people will pay a high price.

[Jazulit] Thank you for this interview.

[Al-Asnaj] You are welcome.

### YSP Leader Insists on 'General and Total' Amnesty

*NC2407080394 Paris AFP in English 0025 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Dubai, July 24 (AFP)—A southern Yemeni official insisted Saturday [23 July] that the north, victorious in a two-month civil war, grant a "general and total amnesty" to the defeated southerners before a scheduled bilateral meeting in Europe in the next few days.

"We are calling for a general and total amnesty," Salim Salih Muhammad, joint general secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) and now sheltering in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah, told AFP by phone.

He and southern leaders fled the country after the war ended on July 7.

President 'Ali Abdallah Salih had excluded 16 southern leaders from the general amnesty he declared on May 24, three weeks into the conflict.

Salih Muhammad also called for the "liberation of all southerners arrested during and after the war." Southern officials put their number at more than 4,000.

He further demanded Sanaa compensate "the families of victims of the war and follow up on promises which it made to the United Nations with a view to promoting Yemeni national reconciliation."

Salih Muhammad, a Presidential Council member of unified Yemen before the war broke out, said both sides would meet in Geneva on July 28 and not Paris as earlier forecast.

He added the meeting would take place under the auspices of UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi.

It was not clear whether 'Ali Salim al-Bid, self-declared president of breakaway south Yemen, would attend. Al-Bid fled to Oman just before the end of the war, which erupted after months of tension between Aden and Sanaa.

Muhammad said 12,000 southern troops had taken refuge in Oman and Djibouti after fleeing advancing northern forces. He also said the north had taken possession of some southern equipment, "including helicopters and warships."

A Western diplomat said meanwhile that several southern Yemenis had been killed or injured when northern troops fired on demonstrators at al-Mukalla on Thursday. Several hundreds southerners were protesting at the presence of the north's army in the town.

### Aden Port, Refinery Resume Operations

*NC2207171494 Paris AFP in English 1651 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Text] Sanaa, July 22 (AFP)—Aden's port and oil refinery, badly damaged in the two-month Yemeni civil war, have been repaired and are operating again, the official Yemeni news agency SABA' reported Friday [22 July].

A Liberian-registered oil tanker entered the port Friday loaded with crude oil from the Ma'rib field east of Sanaa, officials quoted by SABA' said. It was due to deliver its cargo to the newly- operational Aden refinery.

A Panamanian-registered tanker and several ships carrying humanitarian aid, including supplies from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), also arrived at the port.

Aden's port installations were hit during an intense month-long bombardment by northern forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih before they captured the city on July 7.

The refinery, which processed 140,000 barrels of oil per day before the war, was seriously damaged by northern warplanes. Several fuel storage tanks were hit, along with the administration block.

Aden international airport, which was also damaged, remains closed.

On Thursday a Yemeni economist, 'Abdallah 'Ali Sa'id, estimated that more than four billion dollars would be needed to rebuild Aden.

Yemen produced 350,000 barrels of oil per day before the war, more than half of it from the Ma'rib field.

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## Information Minister on World, Domestic Issues

*NC2307085094 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jul 94 p 4*

[Interview with Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi by Tal'at Rumayh in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Rumayh] My first question is about the outcome of the Arab Information Ministers Conference in Cairo.

[Hammadi] Every Arab meeting is useful regardless of its agenda. The agenda of the current meeting contains routine points, most of which, regrettably, have been deferred from previous meetings because of the shortage of funds. There are issues, such as support for southern Lebanon and for the Palestinian resistance in the occupied territories. Funds ranging from $40 million to $50 million are supposed to be earmarked for these two issues. However, a decision is postponed from one meeting to another.

There are other important topics, like coordination on Arab satellite transmission. This is the topic of the hour because it deals with the current Western cultural invasion of the Arab world targeting its entity, identity, and future. Despite the gravity and importance of this subject, it was discussed on the fringes of the meeting without any in-depth study. In any case, it has been decided to form an Arab coordination council, which we hope will be taken seriously. This is because some Arab states are actually participating in this invasion. The U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK on 6 June published an analysis of the Orbit channel financed by Saudi Arabia with billions of dollars. This U.S. channel is invading the Arab nation with American values, customs, and habits as part of a bigger goal of "Americanizing" life and politics in the Arab region in particular and the world in general.

It is interesting to note that during the recent GATT talks, differences between the United States and France—two Western nations in civilization and creed—almost derailed the agreement because of France's rejection of the U.S. video and cinema invasion. France insisted with a national will on preventing this invasion. While this is happening between the Western countries, we the Arabs are opening the gates for this invasion. With investments and policies we are facilitating this invasion, which is polluting our cultural life and corrupting our youth's minds.

Strangely, we are opening the doors and are financially facilitating plans that have become publicly known. Whoever is not aware of this, let him read the recent books by Nixon and Henry Kissinger.

[Rumayh] Did the conference discuss the media blockade of Iraq?

[Hammadi] No, it did not discuss it.

[Rumayh] Not by you?

[Hammadi] Not by us.

[Rumayh] Why?

[Hammadi] We believe the situation in the Arab League organizations does not permit the discussion of this subject. Regrettably, some Arab regimes are participating in this blockade more than the Western states. France, Russia, China, Brazil, several non-aligned countries, and many Islamic countries, such as Malaysia, Indonesia, and Pakistan are calling for the lifting of this blockade and not just easing it. The Arab states—except for Sudan, Yemen, Qatar, Jordan, Algeria, Morocco, and some quarters in Tunis and Libya—are participating in this blockade.

[Rumayh] How far have the attempts to lift the blockade on Iraq reached?

[Hammadi] From the legal and technical perspective, the UN Security Council meets every two months to revise the stance on the issue of blockade and to study the Ekeus report. So far, nothing has been done to lift the blockade. However, I may say that the international attitudes have shown a sort of flexibility on the issue of the blockade. Furthermore, the UN Security Council's position is no longer the same as it was a year or six months ago.

Countries like Russia, France, China, Brazil, Nigeria, India, and Pakistan are demanding that the blockade be lifted. I can even say that the majority members in the Security Council, except for the United States, Britain, and perhaps Argentina, call for lifting or alleviating the blockade. I can also say that the British position is no longer the same and will probably become better in the foreseeable future.

The U.S. administration is now isolated. According to Resolution 687, which was drafted by the United States, the administration is committed from the legal, technical, and political aspects to implement this resolution. However, the resolution stipulates that if the mass destruction weapons are destroyed or put out of commission and if Iraq honors its pledges, the oil embargo must be lifted.

Ekeus can no longer delay his report, which must be submitted as scheduled. Despite its warning, which gives Iraq a six-month test period that is not stipulated in the resolution, the U.S. Administration is committed to the implementation of the resolution and the lifting of the blockade.

The general trend is toward lifting the blockade, since every legal justification has been lost. They are trying to fabricate political excuses. However, the United States is facing a predicament because the resolution was adopted unanimously and the United States cannot decide anything unilaterally. Even if the United States vetoes the lifting of the blockade, the other countries are not committed to this veto.

The implementation of this law is similar to what happened in Cuba, which is under a U.S. blockade. But

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France and Britain are not concerned with this blockade. We expect that if the United States uses the veto, the blockade will become one imposed by the United States rather than by the UN resolution and the United States will then lose the remaining part of its prestige.

[Rumayh] What about the distribution and selling of oil carried through the pipelines passing through Turkish territory?

[Hammadi] We agreed with the Turks to carry the oil and to sell it anywhere they like. We also agreed that 30 percent of the revenue be used as a part of the compensation. Also, part of the Turkish share will be used for compensation. Iraq will use the remaining sum to purchase food and medications from Turkey.

However, we have a problem. The United States wants to apply Resolutions 712 and 706 on Iraq's share of the revenue. In other words, they want the foodstuffs to be purchased and distributed inside Iraq under UN auspices. We see this as an interference in our internal affairs and a violation of our sovereignty. It is an insult that expresses despicable thinking.

[Rumayh] Let us move on to the domestic situation in Iraq.

[Hammadi] God be praised, the situation is stable. We have real economic difficulties and inflation, but these are not structural problems. They are temporary ones created by the conditions of the blockade.

[Rumayh] What is the rate of inflation in Iraq now?

[Hammadi] Prices have gone up by more than 2,000 percent since 1990. The blockade imposed on Iraq is unprecedented in history. It it not similar to the blockade that was imposed on South Africa or even on Japan following World War II. The blockade against Iraq covers everything except air, sun, and water. Had they been able to block these off, they would not have thought about it twice.

This blockade is a weapon aiming to bring down the regime, to humiliate Iraq, and to turn it into a U.S. colony. Once military aggression failed in achieving its goals, the blockade was introduced as a substitute weapon.

I assure you that the current inflation in Iraq is temporary. Once the blockade is partly or totally removed, you will find that the dramatic rise in prices will come to a screeching end. Mere rumors that the UN Security Council will meet to alleviate the blockade frequently brings down the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar in Iraq by up to 30 or 40 percent.

[Rumayh] How much is the exchange rate of the dollar against the Iraqi dinar?

[Hammadi] The dollar is currently being traded at 500 dinars. Without the reconstruction and other vital projects that have gotten underway even under the blockade, the situation would have been even worse. To understand the living conditions in the country you should know that the an ordinary worker makes 200 dinars per day (6,000 per month) [as published] in Baghdad and 250 to 300 dinars per day in other parts of the country. Considering the living conditions in Iraq, such a worker is seen as living above the poverty line. However, certain items are very expensive, such as gasoline and medicine. But salaries are sufficient to buy basic goods.

The government has introduced a rationing system through which citizens can obtain basic items at pre-war prices. This system covers all Iraqi families. It even covers diplomats living in Iraq. These items are subsidized by up to 90 percent of their full price. This represents an additional income of about 2,400 per month per household.

Still, this is not a satisfactory situation. The blockade imposed on Iraq is unprecedented and unjustified.

[Rumayh] Are all the social classes affected equally by the blockade-imposed hardships?

[Hammadi] Those who are affected most are the employees, who have limited incomes. However, the farmers are doing very well. They have turned into a rich class due to the high material incentives the government is providing to increase agriculture production. The area of agricultural land has grown. Iraq, under the blockade, is witnessing an unparalleled boom in crop production.

[Rumayh] What is the level of Iraq's agricultural production?

[Hammadi] We are producing 30 percent of our needs in foodstuffs. We are importing the remaining 70 percent.

[Rumayh] Can you brief us on the progress made in rebuilding the installations damaged by the aggression on Iraq?

[Hammadi] We finished rebuilding the damaged installations a long time ago. Eleven months after the end of the aggression Iraq rebuilt the economic infrastructure, especially in the fields of electricity, oil, dams, bridges, and water purification projects. We then rebuilt the schools and the houses of the citizens. More important, everything is being built with Iraqi hands and without importing anything. We did not import even one faucet.

More important, we rejuvenated the Iraqi economy after development stopped. We started from scratch after the many companies that used to work in development projects had pulled out. We decided not to let economic development be dependent on the lifting of the blockade. The question was: What if the blockade is not lifted?

The state pursued a policy of implementing projects that need a high percentage of manpower. I particularly refer to the digging of the Saddam River. This project was supposed to start in 1952. Companies used to start to implement it and then stop. Any part of the project that

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was dug up was then refilled with earth. It is a river that stretches from a point north of Baghdad to the Arab Gulf. It is 560 km long. Its width is between 50 and 80 meters and its depth is between 8 and 10 meters. Its aim is to reclaim 12 million dunams of land [each dunam is equal to 1,000 square meters] and remove the salinity of the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. This is a big problem similar to that of the land in the Nile Delta in Egypt.

In our new study of the project, we found many machines that were lying idle and about to get rusty. We also found that many workers wanted to find employment. We divided the projects among several companies, which competed in finishing the project as part of a general national drive. We offered financial incentives for the companies that finished their work quickly. We were able to finish this mammoth project in just six months. Some 6,000 machines worked on this project.

[Rumayh] What is the percentage of the new lands vis-a-vis the agricultural lands in Iraq?

[Hammadi] 100 percent.

[Rumayh] Allow me to move to another subject that concerns you personally as Iraqi information minister. Did you make a postmortem of the Iraqi media plan during the Gulf war and what is your comment on it?

[Hammadi] Brother Akram Shalabi from Egypt wrote a book on the media during the Gulf war. Generally speaking, the book contains an objective evaluation of the Iraqi and Western media during the war. What I have to say is that there is a margin of error—human error—which is acceptable. There are other errors that are unacceptable.

[Rumayh] What, in your opinion, were the unacceptable mistakes?

[Hammadi] Ours was a problem common to Third World and Arab countries. We differentiate between media rhetoric and political thinking. In the West, the media faithfully reflect the political thinking. In the West, they may keep some things secret but politics there (the United States, the United Kingdom, etc.) are more or less reflected in the media. Their media faithfully reflect the political thinking.

As for us, the media use an emotional rhetoric, regardless of how clear the political thinking is. Occasionally, we succeed in promoting the political thinking through the media. The opposite, however, does not normally happen.

We do not make a clear distinction between the vocabulary we use in domestic media and that which we should use when addressing different audiences on the Arab and international scenes.

The mistake we made in the Iraqi media is that we did not proceed according to a mature plan with clearly stated objectives.

However, there is an important thing that we should recognize: the Iraqi political line was more effective than Iraqi media rhetoric, even more than Western political and media statements.

Some time ago I met with the CNN deputy director and spoke to him about this subject. I told him that your language is fashioned in a pragmatic way and that it keeps shifting accordingly. Three years have passed since the aggression took place and the blockade started. What, I asked him, has remained in the mind of the Arab citizen who listened to your propaganda? On which side is the Arab street now?

Your media, I said, which were transmitting 412 hours a day of anti-Iraqi propaganda, leaving aside the printed media, used to say that Saddam wants to seize Arab wealth to distribute it among the Arabs, that he is hostile to Israel, and that he struck it with missiles. This was your media's message. Well, thank you very much. We got the message. If God wants to spread a long-forgotten virtue he gets a venomous tongue to do the job. [Arab proverb]

The situation of the Iraqi media was weak back then and it got even weaker. We used to print 85,000 papers. Now, we print only 10 percent of this number. We used to publish 1,200 books. Now we are down to 40. We have only three media missions abroad and 10 or 11 branches of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY. Despite that, our message came across through the anti-Iraqi Western propaganda.

[Rumayh] When will you change your policy toward Kuwait? When will you stop referring to it as an Iraqi governorate?

[Hammadi] This file was closed a long time ago. I beg all Iraq's friends to stop debating this point. We have accepted Resolution 687 and have withdrawn from Kuwait. We stated our position clearly in a letter sent by Tariq 'Aziz to the United Nations. We stated that we seek normal relations with Kuwait. But violations of Iraqi sovereignty, particularly by the planes of the multinational alliance—some of which are Arab—which drop hostile leaflets, and the conspiracies against Iraq's sovereignty and stability should also stop.

This subject is closed, but violations of Iraqi sovereignty and the financing of agent Iraqi opposition should end. Also, the embargo should be lifted so that any talk about normal [Iraqi-Kuwaiti] relations can have meaning.

This is a closed topic. We have said this one hundred times over, but some people do not want to close this file.

### Salih on Dialogue Call to Kuwait Parliament

*JN2207104094 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Jul 94 p 6*

[Interview with Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih by Kazim Nizar al-Rikabi in Baghdad; date not given]

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[Text] [Al-Rikabi] How do you assess the National Assembly's role in developing democratic life in Iraq, after all the years since it was established?

[Salih] The National Assembly rose as a democratic institution in the elections of 20 June 1980. These elections produced the first parliament since the 14 July 1958 Revolution, which banned the parliament and parties despite its promises that it would allow the establishment of a new political life based on sound democratic foundations. This promise, however, was not fulfilled and the situation remained unchanged from 1958 until 1980, which was not a short period of time.

The 17-30 July 1968 Revolution took steps to entrench and develop the democratic practice in Iraq, before the establishment of the National Assembly, by setting up associations, unions, and the National Progressive and Patriotic Front, and by allowing political parties to exercise their role in public through their own media and newspapers. The National Assembly complemented these steps and represents Iraqis' will to build a developed, civilized society and achieve a progressive political life.

The National Assembly, therefore, came into being within the context of this concept. The assembly has indeed played its role very well, both as a legislative body and as a national institution, in general. To count the achievements of the National Assembly, we would need more time and space.

The National Assembly did not just legislate, but made a great contribution to the country's political life. On the domestic front, it helped the other national institutions to create public national awareness and mobilized masses, particularly during the war with Iran and in the Mother of Battles and the 30-state aggression against Iraq. On the foreign front, the assembly played a similar role in explaining Iraq's cause and position by attending conferences with other Arab and international parliaments, and through other activities, visits, and bilateral meetings with world parliaments.

[Al-Rikabi] You undoubtedly are aware of the political motion situation in the world. After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist camp, a trend was developed which speaks of a so-called "democratic revolution" in the world. That expression is being used by the superpowers to impose their hegemony. How can one talk about the democratic experience in Iraq, in light of what has been said?

[Salih] If you take democracy on the West's domestic level, we say it is a democracy that suits them, but it is within the limits of the supreme national interest of these states. This means there are limits which cannot be violated in any way. Certain restrictions are placed on the citizen, the media, and the democratic institutions when the need arises. This picture may be unfamiliar to the Iraqi or Arab citizen. What is presented to him is a shining picture of democracy, but this picture conceals a very frightening and dangerous objective. That card of democracy is often used in various ways to achieve the West's interests. When they are not happy with a regime or a person, they accuse him, or that regime, of being undemocratic and inhumane. Other accusations are fabricated by their media. They distort facts, because if we analyze things rationally and objectively, we will discover the reality. We will discover that they want to achieve inhumane and illegitimate objectives by hiding behind this veil, which they use in a bad way to achieve what they want without considering the hopes, aspirations, and even the rights of others.

This is the method the Western camp uses at present. What they did with what used to be known as the socialist camp is the best proof of this. In the name of democracy, human rights, and the need to secure the citizen's basic needs, they embroiled the people in these countries. I believe the people of these countries discovered the game, although belatedly. That's why in every election that is being held, whether in Bulgaria, Poland, or Hungary, Communist parties or improved Communist parties win. We must not be taken in by these subterfuges and we must not be deceived by their embellished slogans, because they conceal many perils.

Let us approach the issue from another angle. We ask ourselves: How much time did they need to get to where they are now? Is it logical that they ask that we in the Third World apply in one day what took them hundred years to acquire? Scientifically, politically, and socially, this is impossible, not to mention that each society has its own concepts, traditions, customs, and circumstances that should be taken into consideration when implementing democracy. For example, our religion, traditions, and values make us reluctant to curse and slander, and to expose secrets that might harm others. This does not mean one must keep silent about wrongdoings. This is not what is intended. But, there are details we do not agree to discuss in public to defeat a rival. We only highlight mistakes that this or that person commits in his professional field which might lead to his fall, and not by exposing mistakes he committed in private life. For this reason, our democracy has traits which do not exist in Western democracies. We are proud of these traits in which the West, most probably, does not believe. The West, which upholds the banner of democracy and tries to peddle it among us, continues to plunder our resources.

[Al-Rikabi] Can we say that there will be National Assembly elections soon?

[Salih] National Assembly elections are held every four years in accordance with the National Assembly law. However, in view of the 30-state aggression on our country, and the anomalous state of affairs in northern Iraq, it has become constitutionally impossible to hold elections. That's why the present term was extended by two years. If circumstances remain as they are, the National Assembly's term may be renewed. But, if the

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anomalous situation in northern Iraq ends, then free and democratic elections will be held, but devoid of any of the effects that are used in the West and which differentiate among people. In the West, money, the media, and other methods are used. So, who reaches parliament? Those who have money and social background win, not those who have the knowledge, ability, and willingness to serve the people. This is how democracy in the West works. Our democracy is different. You, and the Iraqis know how elections are held. The party does not adopt its candidates but views all candidates as its own. No party in the West does this. In the West, the party supports its candidates with all the resources, power, and media tools it can muster. The press in Iraq tackles everything. The first person in the country, President leader Saddam Husayn, may God grant him long life, always tells the press to tackle the issues they want on the condition that the truth is served, and not to fear if this or that official gets angry, or is not satisified with what they write. The president is a great supporter of the press.

[Al-Rikabi] You talked about the situation in the northern region. I would like to point out that the Western media are talking about a democratic experience in northern Iraq. How do you view this erroneous situation, and what is the role of the legislative and executive councils in the Autonomous Region as democratic institutions under these circumstances?

[Salih] Western media, particularly regarding the Third World, do not seek the truth. They rather reverse the facts according to their countries' interest. We wonder: What democracy in northern Iraq are they talking about? Is it the sound of bullets, the killings according to the identity card, the conflicts, the massacres, the looting, and the companies? If they want such a democracy, we wish them luck with this democracy. We do not believe in such a democracy. I am confident that if our Kurdish people in the north are given freedom and if they are no longer faced with rifles where everyone is threatened with death, they will express their opinion and throw across the border those who are protected by the West. We are confident that this will take place if the hammer forces leave the region. According to all norms, the hammer forces are illegal.

What really happened in northern Iraq is that elections were held there under the protection of the Americans and the British and also under the protection of U.S. and British aircraft, guns, and rifles. These elections were totally forged. When this forgery was revealed, the results were not announced. They instead divided the seats between the two main groups and placed the fate of this institution in the hands of the minority by putting five or six persons in this parliament, so by siding with a certain party this small group could make that party win. The links and objectives of this group are known. The party that orders this group is also known. The West applauds these people and describes them as democrats because they abide by its orders and implement its subversive policies.

On the contrary, our legislative and executive councils were elected with complete freedom, as was acknowledged by the Western media themselves at that time. Western media reporters were present in the region at that time. The institutions which are fabricated in the presence of the hammer forces will vanish. They do not express the will of our masses in the northern region. This is an erroneous situation and it will end once the so-called hammer forces leave this region.

[Al-Rikabi] Reports said you called on a number of Kuwaiti parliament members to open a dialogue on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti relationship. Would you explain the objective of this call?

[Salih] It seems to me that the Kuwaitis have misunderstood our call and did not give it due consideration. The call stemmed from our care for restoring Arab solidarity and cooperation among the brethren. This was a sincere call to the Kuwaiti parliament members to meet with us anywhere and in the presence of any party they may choose in order to discuss everything, not only one subject.

[Al-Rikabi] Does this mean a complete dialogue?

[Salih] Complete and unconditional dialogue to arrive at just, firm, and final solutions because any solution that is not just will not last. Any solution in which any of the parties feels he was done an injustice will not be satisfactory and the problem will remain. We have several examples of such problems which have not seen a radical and just solution. They continued despite the fact that, in certain cases, the parties signed documents under certain circumstances. Such problems may explode every now and then. We said we are ready to meet whoever is chosen by the Kuwaiti parliament and in the presence of any party to engage in a sincere and serious dialogue and discussion to arrive at solutions to all the outstanding issues between us and them. They, however, may have misinterpreted our message. They may have thought that the Iraqis are aggravated or have gone hungry, and so forth, and that we proposed dialogue as a tactic. We did not propose this as a tactic, but we proposed it out of conviction and good and sincere intention. If they do not want this, they will be to blame and will be responsible for the consequences toward their people and the Arab nation. Here we ask: Is it in the interest of the Arab nation to keep things the way they are. Of course not. No sincere Arab will accept this. Out of our belief in this fact and the need to cleanse the Arab atmosphere, and as a first step, we called for dialogue, to be followed by other steps so that we can restore Arab rapprochement and Arab relations to the level that serves the Arab interest. We must leave personal matters and personal attitudes aside, especially since we have had to put up with the damage they caused.

[Al-Rikabi] Is the call still valid?

[Salih] Yes, the call is still valid.

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[Al-Rikabi] Is it limited by any timeframe?

[Salih] No it is not limited by any timeframe and is unconditional. It is a simple, clear and sincere call.

[Al-Rikabi] A Kuwaiti response rejected the call. Has this rejection ended the call?

[Salih] No, that rejection did not end the call. The call still stands and we are ready to meet.

[Al-Rikabi] So, it is a serious step aiming at cleansing the Arab atmosphere and restoring rapprochement?

[Salih] This is exactly what we mean.

[Al-Rikabi] On several occasions, the National Assembly announced there will be new laws to be issued consecutively, including the press law and the political pluralism law. What happened to these laws?

[Salih] After the end of the war with Iran, the leader president set a program to develop political life in Iraq and entrench the democratic practice. The implementation of that program started with the publication of a new draft Constitution, which, as you are aware, was discussed and approved by the National Assembly. The only thing that remains now is the application. However, the circumstances in which the country is passing have prevented this. Also, a party law, based on the Constitution, was also discussed and approved, and now any one wishing to set up a party can do so in accordance with the formulas stipulated by the law. Journalists, particularly foreigners, ask: Why are there no parties yet. This is a matter that concerns the people because the law is now in force.

In view of the embargo that is imposed on us, the citizen's major concern is how to secure his daily bread, and the clothes and medicine he needs, and not to form parties. This is not an excuse to give up democracy and the establishment of political parties. Our stand is explicit. We are for the establishment of political parties and there are laws on this. Although the country is passing through exceptional circumstances, a law was issued on political parties because, in the past, there was no law on the formation of these parties.

As for the press law, one is in force. Therefore, we do not believe there is an urgent need to issue a new law to replace it. If the stuation returns to normal, we will seriously think then about passing a new press law. Our main concern now is how to alleviate the burdens our people shoulder as a result of the embargo; how to rebuild our country that was destroyed by the aggression. However, this does not mean that we will give up the program the president leader, may God protect him, had announced and had closely followed. God willing, it will be carried out at the appropriate time. The decision to proceed along the democractic course is irrevocable.

[Al-Rikabi] A few minutes before this interview, you met with Turkish and French parliamentary delegations. On the basis of your relations with world parliaments, what role do you perceive these can play in ending the unjust embargo that is imposed on our people and explaining the Iraqi people's cause of defending Iraq and its sovereignty?

[Salih] The embargo on Iraq is not an economic embargo but a comprehensive one in every sense of the word. Iraqis are known for their pride and resolve when they are convinced of something and insist on it. That's why they proceed toward the objectives they have set for themselves. The Iraqis diligently worked in all fields, including the parliamentary field. At the beginning, the embargo meant a complete siege on the National Assembly whose members were not able to make any trips abroad, and whose invitations to other parliamentarians remained unanswered. But, this situation has started to change. We are now attending all parliamentary meetings, whether the periodic meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union or the Arab Parliamentary Union, or even the European Parliament, when the nature of the topics are of a universal nature. We benefitted from our presence in all these meetings to explain Iraq's cause. In addition to the brothers in the Foreign Ministry and the other institutions which have something to do with this issue, we all managed to foster the world's convictions, especially among parliamentarians, that the imposition of the embargo has become unjustified. Stands started to change in our favor. Proof of this is in the many visits to Iraq by officials, mostly parliamentary officials. Most of these started to show understanding and adopt positive stands. We dispatched many delegations to several countries. I led many of these delegations, particularly to important countries like the PRC. When meetings are held in one of the important countries, we send a delegation to explain Iraq's cause and hold bilateral meetings. That's why I believe the National Assembly has carried out its duties to its country and people.

### Foreign Ministry Denies Detaining Kuwaiti Children

*JN2307204394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jul 94*

["Text" of press statement issued by the Foreign Ministry in Baghdad on 23 July]

[Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], on 14 July, 1994, issued a statement about the repatriation of two Kuwaiti children—a 10-year old boy and his 12-year sister—to Kuwait. As usuaul, Kuwaiti news media sought to exploit a humanitarian matter by spreading slanderous and groundless reports, contending that the two had been held in Iraq.

To set the record straight, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry states the following:

The two children had been living with their mother, an Iraqi national, in Iraq. Mrs. Mayami 'Abd-al-Amir applied to the Iraqi authorities to join her Kuwaiti husband, Faysal Kurkan, who lives in Kuwait. She was allowed to travel just like any other Iraqi citizen, and departed for Amman in October, 1993, having left the two children with her family in Iraq, pending obtaining approval of the Kuwaiti side of their entrance into Kuwait.

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The Foreign Ministry received a memorandum from the ICRC's mission in Baghdad on 26 June, 1994 to the effect that the Kuwaiti side had agreed to take delivery of the two children at Safwan border point. The handover took place on 13 July, 1994. The competent Iraqi authorities offered the children all travel facilities.

From the above, it is clear that these two children had been living in Iraq with their mother's family and had never been detained as claimed by Kuwaiti media. To set the record straight, the Foreign Ministry summoned Mr. (Michael Petro), head of the ICRC mission at noon today, 23 July, 1994, and showed him the [Kuwaiti] media's distortion of facts and their attempt to abuse Iraq's humanitarian stand to promote known political ends. The mission head testified to the incorrectness of the reports published by the news media, especially the Kuwaiti media.

### Governor Refutes Tehran Report on Khoi's Son

*JN2307101894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Holy al-Najaf, 23 Jul (INA)—The governor of Al-Najaf has strongly refuted Tehran Radio's claims about the death of late Muhammad Tqiy Kho'i, the second son of the late Ayatollah Kho'i, describing them as pure fabrication and allegation.

In a statement to INA, the al-Najaf governor said the regrettable crash in which late Muhammad Taqi Kho'i was killed was an accident caused by high speed and the loss of control of the car that was carrying him and two of his relatives. The car, a Toyota Supra, which was driven by one if his relatives and coming from Karbala', collided with a truck on the highway between al-Haydariyah and al-Najaf at around 2300 Thursday, 21 July 1994.

The al-Najaf governor said Tehran Radio reports to the effect that the crash was a staged accident are mere fabrication and allegation. The al-Najaf Governorate held a service for the deceased in al-Tusi Mosque in al-Najaf.

### Saddam Envoy Consoles Kho'i Family on Son's Death

*JN2307185794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has delegated Lieutenant Colonel Rukan 'Abd-al-Ghafur as his excellency's representative to attend a Koranic recitation session held for the late Muhammad Taqiy Kho'i, who passed away in a car accident the day before yesterday [21 July] in the evening.

The representative of the leader president conveyed his excellency's condolences and compassion to the relatives of the departed in the al-Najaf Governorate.

The relatives of the departed expressed their great gratitude and appreciation for leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, beseeching God almighty to keep his excellency an asset for great Iraq, give him a long life, and crown his struggle with victory. God is all-hearing and all-answering. To God we are and unto him we shall return.

### Iran Might Use Domestic Crisis To Launch Aggression

*JN2207181094 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 18 Jul 94 p 2*

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif: "The Price of Opportunism"]

[Text] According to reports from inside Iran, that country, which has become notorious for international terrorism and worship of aggression, especially following the downfall of the shah and the arrival of Khomeyni, and later his followers, to power, is no longer safe from social, sectarian, and ethnic tremors which, in their entirety, will neither be in the interest of the regime nor the integrity of Iranian territory.

The Iranian regime is opposed by the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, a powerful mainstream Iranian opposition movement. Other less important movements have also emerged and begun a series of activities in Tehran and other cities. It is noteworthy that these movements are of a religious and sectarian nature, which means that Iran is falling into the same trap which it once tried to set for other countries but failed.

The Iranian rulers, who have not learned the lesson of their military and political defeat by Iraq in the second al-Qadisiyah [first Gulf War] and from their other defeat in the chapter of treachery and treason during the Mother of Battles; and, who have not also taken heed from the exposure of their policy of terrorism and chauvinism inside Iran and on the regional and international levels, seem to be trying to use the preludes of civil, religious, and sectarian wars as a pretext for proceeding further with their internal oppression and preparation for foreign acts of aggression. This is explained by the plethora of accusations that certain parties outside Iran are responsible for the wave of explosions, bomb plantings, and assassinations which have included various Islamic shrines and places of worship as well as Christian clergymen and churches.

The talk that the Iranian Government itself might be behind all those operations to justify terrorism inside Iran, discredit the national opposition and try to isolate it from the Iranian public, divert public attention from the acute economic crisis in Iran, and return to the policy of exporting crises abroad in the form of armed aggression, is generally correct. The other talk that the exchange of explosions, bomb plantings, and religious assassinations between the different sects indicates that the Iranian regime's opportunism in siding with the United States, "Israel", and the West against Iraq during the Mother of Battle is no longer working in the interest

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of that regime in the present circumstances and that it is Iran's friends themselves who are backing sectarian movements and activities in Iran, is also correct. The Tehran regime must bear this in mind at all times to avoid the consequences of any military adventures it might contemplate outside the Iranian border.

The Iranian peoples have suffered and are still suffering a great deal from hunger and national and ethnic persecution, interference in other people's affairs, armed aggression on others, and exportation of terrorism. No doubt, Iran is in no position at any time to wage any other foreign wars which its rulers might be planning on the basis of futile calculations. We are not exaggerating when we say that defeat of the aggressor will not be the only outcome of any military aggression outside the Iranian border; in fact, such an aggression will be an opportunity for the Iranian peoples to overthrow the regime and achieve national freedom and liberation.

People in the United States and the West often talk about what they term "containment of Iran" and overlook the services which Iran has rendered by its eight-year aggression which ended with Iraq's decisive victory, and also by the second chapter of the 1991 U.S. aggression against our struggling country. This means that like the shah's regime, the present Iranian regime, now needs to be changed for certain regional and international political exigencies as viewed and required by the United States. Perhaps, international manifestations of the sectarian and religious conflict are a prelude for this change.

## Opposition Group on Bloody Purge of 'Duri' Figures

*MM2207161594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jul 94 p 6*

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Sources Speak of Bloody Power Struggle in Baghdad"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—An official of an Iraqi opposition movement has stated that no fewer than 40 military and civilian figures close to 'Izzat al-Duri, the Iraqi president's deputy, were killed or wounded in an attack launched by government security forces while they were holding a secret meeting in the capital Baghdad at the beginning of this current month to discuss the campaign of liquidation and dismissal of a group of senior party officials and officers who come from the town of al-Dur near Tikrit, from which Iraqi President Saddam Husayn hails.

Dr. Hamid al-Bayati, the London representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, has quoted sources, which he described as "well-informed," as saying that a number of vehicles carrying security men encircled a night club in al-'Abbasi street (formerly Abu-Nuwas street) which runs along the east bank of the Tigris River opposite the presidential palace. Then elements from the special security organ supervised by Qusayy, the Iraqi president's second son, stormed the place where the meeting was in session and opened fire on the conferees, who numbered about 60, killing or wounding 40 of them.

Al-Bayati addd that the meeting was called by "prominent Duri figures" including officers and senior party officials to discuss the campaign of liquidation and dismissals launched by Saddam Husayn against senior military, security, and party officials who came from the town of al-Dur. He added that security men cleared the adjacent area and stopped the traffic in al-'Abbasi street.

There have been reports over the past two months about the dismissal and arrest of a number of Duri officials, some of whom are related to 'Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council, which is the highest ruling body in Iraq, and they included Chief of Intelligence Sabir al-Duri.

The Duri group occupies second place as far as influence in the Iraqi Government and party organs and the Army are concerned, after the Tikriti group headed by President Saddam Husayn. That has been the case over the 25 years of the Ba'th Party's rule in Iraq.

## Rival Kurdish Groups Said To Strike Deal in Paris

*NC2307184394 Paris AFP in English 1607 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Paris, 23 Jul (AFP)—Iraq's two main rival Kurdish groups, meeting in a Paris suburb, have settled their bloody differences in a "wide-ranging agreement," the groups said Saturday [23 July] in a joint statement.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) led by Mas'ud al-Barzani and the Kurdistan Patriotic Union (KPU) of Jalal al-Talabani agreed to organise general elections to the self-declared Kurdish parliament in May 1995, when the current parliament's mandate ends.

They also agreed to "reorganise and restructure" Kurdish armed forces in mainly Kurdish northern Iraq, after a week-long meeting at an unnamed location ended Friday evening.

The agreement must be initialled by the two leaders, who were not present in Paris. The KDP delegation said this could happen next month.

The talks, moderated by European diplomats, politicians and academics, took place in a "constructive and friendly atmosphere" with the two parties agreeing to resolve their differences "by peaceful and democratic means," the statement said.

Conflict between the two groups in May led to more than 100 deaths, dividing northern Iraq into two zones and paralysing the Kurdish "government" declared during a Kurdish uprising against Iraqi President Saddam Husayn after the 1991 Gulf War.

A series of ceasefires restored calm but the Kurdish population remains divided and a number of agreements have not been implemented to date.

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In the agreement announced Saturday, the two groups pledged themselves to "increase the government's authority and end party interference in government business." They also agreed to carry out wide-ranging administrative reforms and develop a "joint foreign policy."

The two movements appealed to the international community to "soften UN sanctions" against Iraq, as they apply to the rebel Kurdish regions.

They also asked to extend the post-Gulf War multinational operation in the region, "Provide Comfort," "until a democratic solution to the Iraqi Kurdish question is found."

### DPK, PUK Issue Statement

*JN2307184794 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1645 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Statement issued by DPK and PUK in Paris on 23 July]

[Text] Two ranking Kurdish delegations from the DPK [Democratic Party of Kurdistan] and the PUK [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] have held week-long peace talks in a Paris suburb.

The talks, which began on 16 July and ended on 22 July, sought to find a solution to the recent dispute in Iraqi Kurdistan between the two parties. The talks were serious, frank, and realistic, and were held in a positive and cordial atmopshere. Agreement was reached on a comprehensive settlement, which is waiting to be officially signed by Mr. Mas'ud Barzani and Mr. Jalal Talabani.

Officials from the French presidency and the French Foreign Ministry, and delegations from the U.S. and UK embassies attended part of the talks as observers. French diplomats, and European politicians and academics attended the talks as mediators.

The talks dealt with the roots of the Kurdish dispute, and the two sides agreed to settle outstanding problems through peaceful and democratic means.

Agreement was reached to hold general elections in May 1995 when the Kurdish parliament's present term expires. The two sides also agreed on measures to consolidate the authority of the regional government of Kurdistan and to prevent party interference in government affairs. Agreement was also reached on extensive reforms concerning the administration and financial arrangements for the region, and on measures to reorganize the armed forces in the Kurdistan region. The two sides also agreed to adopt a joint foreign policy.

The meetings ended with two appeals to the international community: to ease the UN sanctions on the besieged Iraqi Kurdistan area, and maintain relief operations until a democratic solution to the Kurdish issue in Iraq is attained.

The talks mainly focused on Kurdish reconciliation and the domestic state of affairs in Iraqi Kurdistan. The two parties thanked the French authorities for arranging the meeting.

[Dated] Paris, 23 July 1994

### Saddam: Cut Costs To 'Lowest Possible Level'

*JN2407084794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and preserve him, has said the expertise accumulated by ministries now enables them to review and check the costs of investment in new projects and to study every alternative that will lead to reducing costs to the lowest possible level.

His excellency stressed the need for each minister to check the costs of his ministry's projects and arrive at real estimates to save more money, and, at the same time, to take note of the effect of certain stages in these projects on the cost of services, the costs of subcontracts, and transportation costs, in general.

His excellency noted that such savings and cuts in expenditures will create a sort of balance and calm in the economy.

These statements emerged when his excellency the leader president, may God protect him, chaired the 11th Cabinet session, which discussed certain new projects. His excellency asked that these projects be restudied to cut costs and expenditures to the lowest possible level and to propose alternatives, review and check the bills of quantities and schedules for the execution time, and cut the use of sub-contracts, which lead to increasing costs and expenditure.

The cabinet then discussed the health services and the distribution and marketing of medicines. His excellency ordered the setting up of a ministerial commission to suggest ways to stop abuse and waste in the distribution and marketing of medicines. His excellency said: We are not only responsible for applying the law, but our role goes beyond that to prevent the citizen from breaking the law. If our efforts do not prevent a citizen from committing a crime, then we should exert efforts to make sure that such a crime is not committed. [sentence as heard]

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## Rabin, Peres Depart for Washington Summit

### Peres Previews Talks

*NC2407171794 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Jul 94 p 5*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Ahmad Nafi' in London; date not given]

[Text] [Nafi'] You said today that the meeting between King Husayn, Rabin, and Clinton will be a landmark event. What do you expect the results to be?

[Peres] I expect the results will be the establishment of full peace and understanding, which in turn will produce a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Our goal has not changed. It is comprehensive peace in the Middle East—a peaceful Middle East working on completely new soil and completely new roots.

[Nafi'] Do you believe something will be initialed?

[Peres] I believe it will result in the issuance of a statement or declaration. There are several technical matters that must be resolved, such as demarcating the border, solving the water problems, and addressing other issues. Negotiations might last for weeks or months. However, we cannot achieve a hidden or a secret peace. Peace must be achieved in public and in broad daylight and must permit the exchange of views and the establishment of joint projects and companies. Egypt started [the process]. Then came the Palestinians. And now it is Jordan's turn. Do you know that there is another state or two states that can reach an agreement with Israel?

[Nafi'] You will meet with Dr. al-Majali and Christopher in Jordan on Wednesday [20 July]. Do you expect the meeting to produce important results? If the answer is no, when do you believe an agreement with Jordan will be possible?

[Peres] We will try to lay the groundwork for another meeting in Washington. In fact, we want to build on something that we started when I met for the first time in Washington with U.S. President Clinton and Crown Prince Hasan. We formed a committee to develop the Dead Sea rift valley and prepare it for industrial, agricultural, and tourism development for the benefit of the two peoples. Instead of being a dividing line, Wadi al-'Arabah will be a meeting point.

[Nafi'] I have learned that one of the fantastic ideas under discussion is the establishment of national parks on both sides [of Wadi al-'Arabah]? Where do you believe these parks can be established?

[Peres] Not far from the Dead Sea. These parks will be on the lowest spot (because the Dead Sea area is the lowest spot in the world below sea level)

[Nafi'] One park or several parks?

[Peres] The main idea is to attract tourists. Therefore, we will accept any ideas construction engineers will put forward. The idea is to turn the lowest spot on earth into the highest tourist attraction.

[Nafi'] Will any partial agreements be signed at the Dead Sea meeting, like recognizing Jordan's borders in Wadi al-'Arabah and south of Lake Tiberias?

[Peres] I don't know. We agreed in principle to discuss the border issue. Therefore, there might be some argument. I believe that the matter can be resolved; we can clearly and fully mark the border lines between us and Jordan. They did not exist in the past because the British mandate officials were responsible for drawing the line. They were not clear in performing their task. The borders were meaningless. Hence, we have to determine the basic criteria for the borders and I believe that this is possible.

[Nafi'] Since Jordan had agreed not to reach a peace agreement until it finds responsiveness to the terms of comprehensive peace, how far can relations be normalized between the two states?

[Peres] I do not think that this was the only view coming from Jordan. King Husayn said that it was high time for the Jordanian people to pursue their own interests and needs. I do not think that Jordan can afford to leave its own affairs suspended in air forever because of another state. Just imagine if Egypt had decided not to make any move without Syria. We would have had to wait for another 17 years, and for what? What did Hafiz al-Asad gain by waiting 17 years? It was a waste of time, money, and opportunities.

[Nafi'] What do you mean by saying that King Husayn focuses on religious rather than political matters when it comes to Jerusalem? And, where do you stand on Islamic waqfs [property whose revenue is dedicated to charity]?

[Peres] The king said: What matters about Jerusalem now is the religious dialogue and not the political dialogue. The Islamic interest in Jerusalem is religious and not political. We agree to that because, in our view, the political factor in the Jerusalem issue is closed, while the religious factor is still open.

As for Islamic waqfs, they are today under the supervision of the Jordanian Government; they pay the salaries and appoint officials. We see no reason to change this situation. We will respect it completely.

[Nafi'] You visited Jordan secretly last year, and then you appeared on Israeli television and said: "Mark down 3 November." So far, you have refused to say what happened. Were you referring to the imminent meeting in Washington?

[Peres] There is no reason for me to change this refusal to speak.

[Nafi'] Even in that atmosphere of progress?

[Peres] Even in that atmosphere. Personally, I never publicize what was agreed to remain unpublished.

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[Nafi'] I understand and I respect this. You were one of the architects of the Oslo Agreement and before that you reached an agreement on Gaza and Jericho with King Husayn in London in 1987. But no one at the time believed that the agreement was real. Will you surprise the world with a similar agreement with Syria?

[Peres] I wish I could, but this also depends on the Syrians. I believe that it is possible to reach an agreement with King Husayn, whom I greatly respect. I believe that this man has had broad experience and he faces up to his responsibility. He is sometimes involved in situations not of his making, but I respect him and his rule. I believe that he has given the Kingdom of Jordan a form of civilized rule. I feel that the Palestinians and we have no other options other than agreement. I was very lucky to have the opportunity to cooperate with President al-Sadat and with President Husni Mubarak after him. I believe that there are far more common interests between us than we declared. We used to feel ashamed of recognizing the existence of common interests between us and would rush to declare our differences. I believe that this was wrong. We waged several wars in which one party did not win militarily and the other did not win politically. That was a waste of time and lives. When I think of the future I can see no real choice in war for the Syrians. They cannot get anything important through war. All that can be obtained through war is no longer important. Today, the source of wealth and power has nothing to do with raising flags, borders, or passports. Science has no limits, technology does not carry a flag, and information does not need a visa. Television conveys information to every home. What is the sense in insisting on launching wars for borders and raising flags when we lose the chance of becoming a modern state? Every state in the Middle East must ask itself this question: "What should I do for my sons? I should buy a ticket in the first row in the 21st century and not remain a slave to backwardness." The real question is not how to correct the past but how to prepare for the future. This is our principal task.

[Nafi'] Your recent statement concerning Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights was extremely positive. The leaders of the Israeli Government after the 1967 war immediately agreed to withdraw from the Golan Heights. Since there can be no peace without a complete withdrawal, why are you wasting time by declining to announce Israel's readiness to effect a complete withdrawal?

[Peres] The Syrians are demanding something that I personally cannot accept. They want us to announce that we will withdraw completely from the Heights and eliminate the settlements and then start the negotiations. Nobody would accept this. Can you imagine if President al-Sadat said in the past: "I want Israel to withdraw from Sinai first and then we start the negotiations."

We must not forget that the negotiations with Egypt passed through three stages. First, the disengagement of forces; second, the interim agreement; and third, the final agreement. We both needed time, study, and preparation. The Syrians are now talking about disarmament. They are talking about equality. Had Egypt said in the past that in order to have the weapons removed from Sinai Israel must eliminate weapons in Negev, we would have never achieved an agreement.

The Syrian position is extremely strong now. Can you imagine if President al-Sadat said: "I support peace but I do not want to talk with you." What is the meaning of this [Syrian] behavior? You would not say that you want to normalize relations if you are not prepared to normalize negotiations. These are our problems with the Syrians. They are totally stubborn and their position is ambiguous.

[Nafi'] As regards the Palestinian track, you have declared your stand on the three basic issues that will be discussed. What about the other topics?

[Peres] What other topics?

[Nafi'] The Jericho-Gaza issue, the size of Jericho, and the issue pertaining to the soldier on the bridge. And what about the other issues?

[Peres] We are ready to forge ahead with the issues of the transfer of authority, elections, and financing. We are also ready to hold a meeting to be attended by the four sides: Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinians, and the Israelis to discuss the other issues. We will be waiting for the reply.

[Nafi'] What about the quadripartite talks regarding the return of the 1967 refugees? And will these talks be held at the foreign ministers' level?

[Peres] Yes. As far as we are concerned, we are ready to start the talks. There is a green light on all roads.

[Nafi'] How can the transfer of authority be applied when Israel is refusing the deployment of the Palestinian police?

[Peres] We believe we can find a solution in this regard. We have worked out solutions to even more difficult problems.

[Nafi'] What is your comment on the issue of elections? Will they be local or general elections? And if they are general elections, does this mean that only the heads of council will be elected or just the members of the council as a whole?

[Peres] I prefer local and general elections. I believe that the members and the head of the council must be elected. Democracy does not mean direct elections only. Democracy is an apparatus to do the revisions and prepare the budget. You cannot elect someone without electing the others. We, therefore, would like to see the Palestinians exercise democracy because we believe this is the best guarantee for peace and development. Democracy is more important than strategy because wars will never

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take place among democratic states. We want the Palestinians to elect all the local councils and the members and the head of the Palestinian Authority.

[Nafi'] But how can elections be held before deploying the Israeli army?

[Peres] We should not ignore what the Declaration of Principles says. It stipulates that the army will deploy before the elections. We will decide the meaning of that in the agreement. The deployment will take place during the elections. We will implement the Declaration to the letter.

[Nafi'] How can the Palestinian national authority be expanded to include the rest of the West Bank if settlers are demonstrating, like those in Hebron, and complicating matters?

[Peres] There are settlers in Hebron and other areas. The problem does not lie in the presence of settlers or settlements; it lies in bad relations. If you establish good relations you will have no problems. Suppose there are 500 Jews in Hebron. What is the problem? If they establish good relations, we will not have the problem of dividing each part into border areas. We are trying to establish good relations at first. There are many areas in Israel where Arabs and Jews live together without any problems.

[Nafi'] What will the Middle East be like in five years' time?

[Peres] It will have a totally different political shape. In five years we will be able to irrigate the land. I think that we will also be able to open all the roads to tourism. Tourism is becoming a very modern industry; it represents 11 percent of the world economy. Tourism has a political role as well; it establishes ties among the people. I can see the Middle East establishing ties through universities and carrying out joint projects in planning and new commodities. I see the funds that used to be spent on arms being invested in universities and schools. I can see the Middle East as it returns to civilization in many ways. My biggest wish is to see Arab people's standard of living improving considerably, because we will all regret it if the gap in the standards of living continues. I think that we will build roads and railway networks. We will have open skies and airspace. I think that the Arab world will be more democratic. I am sure that Islam will eventually focus on the spiritual rather than the political approach. There is no conflict whatsoever between your religion and your system. I think that we will enter the 21st century after we have seized the opportunities made available by science, technology, democracy, and cooperation. Our children will cooperate and compete and we will not be strangers or hostile.

[Nafi'] It has been published that you encourage a plan similar to the Marshal Plan (which the United States put forward to develop Europe after the world war) to develop and reconstruct the region.

[Peres] Yes.

[Nafi'] Who do you think can fund such a huge project?

[Peres] I believe that the European countries, the Japanese, and Americans have reached such a high level of productivity that the only thing that they can now produce is unemployment. The higher the productivity, the higher the ratio of the unemployed. Unemployment costs money and, therefore, I proposed to them to export their unemployment. I called on them to invest in, for instance, building a new Middle East. A government has a balance but not funds. There are numerous companies that have funds but not policies. So my proposal was that private companies come to the area to build airports, import offices, housing units, and tourist sites. In return, they can get loan or investment guarantees from their governments. As you may know, a major economic conference will be held for the first time in Morocco in October in which the European countries, Japan, the United States, the Arab states, and Israel will participate. This conference constitutes the first step toward this goal.

Allow me to say that I am aware that many Arabs maintain that Israel seeks to control the economy of the Middle East. But this is "nonsense" because modern economy cannot be built on control but competition. When you buy a Japanese television set, you buy it because it is well-made and cheap and not because the Japanese carries a gun. One buys the best and cheapest. Israel can now survive and there is no longer anything called national economy but only international economy. Israel basically exports to the United States and Europe and we can continue to do that. Our trade with the Middle East represents 2 or 3 percent but Israel is economically interested in the Middle East because we are politically interested in it. We believe that the only alternative, if the standard of living does not rise considerably, would be the spread of fundamentalism. We, therefore, indeed want to participate in the serious attempts to improve the standard of living and to increase the national revenue and the per capita income in all countries. We do not want to remain an island of prosperity in a sea of problems.

### Rabin, Peres Comment

*TA2407054294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres aboard an airplane en route to Washington D.C.; date not given]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is en route to Washington. Aboard the aircraft, Mr. Rabin said that the negotiations with the Palestinians and Jordanians are not intended to harm the aspiration for peace with all the partners to the Madrid Conference, especially Syria. According to Mr. Rabin, the current negotiating process is a much smarter one than in the past. Our political

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correspondent Shlomo Raz reports from the prime minister's aircraft en route to the summit with King Husayn:

[Begin recording] [Raz] From the Air Force plane en route to the historic summit, the prime minister expresses pride in Israel's foreign policy this week. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] medical team is leaving for Rwanda, an IDF rescue team is in Buenos Aires, and the prime minister himself is en route to Washington for a historic meeting with Jordan's King Husayn. Mr. Rabin was not prepared to discuss the contents of his joint declaration with King Husayn. Another issue constantly on the agenda is Syria. The time is not ripe to discuss Syria, Rabin said in a short interview during the flight.

[Rabin] We are now dealing with Jordan, and I hope the mission to Washington is a step forward in advancing peace, but all in good time. The main significance of the government's moves is that instead of having four delegations traveling to Washington for fixed periods, we started with the Palestinians. I hope we have now begun the process with the Jordanians as well. This process is not meant to harm the aspiration for a comprehensive peace with all the partners to the Madrid framework, but it is based on a much smarter process: holding bilateral negotiations—in the region to the extent possible—with one track independent of the other.

[Raz] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres believes there will be a slowdown in the negotiations with Syria. Damascus is not interested in operating in the shadow of the Rabin-Husayn summit, but does not want to suspend the contacts. Peres was also interviewed en route to Washington. We asked him: Mr. Peres, as journalists, we think in terms of headlines. What will be the headline of the Washington meeting?

[Peres] Something very important will take place in the Washington meeting: It will legitimize a new, public framework of relations with Jordan. Second, it also constitutes recognition of the trilateral U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli framework.

[Raz] When do you think there will be a full peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, similar to the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt?

[Peres] I think it is a matter of months.

[Raz] A year?

[Peres] I do not want to commit myself to a date, but the process has begun, and it will be very hard to hold it up.

[Raz] What is expected from this meeting? Beyond making the relations public, is there any intention or expectation of a significant declaration?

[Peres] I think both sides will try to give meaning to the anticipated declaration; openness is part of the process of psychological rapprochement between the peoples. I would prefer putting it differently: It is the start of the peace process. The ship has set sail, and it will continue sailing.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, I would like to ask you about Syria. We will have more details in several hours, following the meeting with Secretary Christopher, but where do the negotiations with Syria stand now?

[Peres] The situation is very fragile. On one hand, I think the Syrians will not want to find themselves outside the peace process, but on the other hand, they do not want to be dictated to by the Jordanian and Palestinian moves. That is why I do not expect a breakthrough with Syria in the coming weeks. [end recording]

### 'Unequivocal Reservation' on Haiti

*TA2407052294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Jul 94 p 7*

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and Nahum Barne'a]

[Text] Today, Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres will discuss with Secretary of State Christopher the U.S. request for Israeli participation in the "peace force" to be established in Haiti after the overthrow of the ruling military junta.

The U.S. request, which was received in Israel late last week, was first reported by YEDI'OT AHARONOT on Friday [22 July]. Israel was asked to dispatch Infantry and Air Force units. Over the weekend, Prime Minister Rabin voiced his unequivocal reservation about sending IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers into action in Haiti. Rabin is considering responding favorably to the request, however, by dispatching a mobile army surgical hospital.

### Cabinet Sends Congratulations

*TA2407133894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] The cabinet sent congratulations to the prime minister and foreign minister prior to their historic meeting with King Husayn and President Clinton in Washington. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the announcement says the government regards the meeting as another important and encouraging milestone on the road to Middle East peace. The cabinet also praised King Husayn for publicly showing, through his meetings with Israeli leaders, his ongoing commitment to the peace process and to circumventing Israeli-Arab conflict. The Israeli Government, the announcement said, is acting to achieve peace with all its neighbors —the Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians, and the Lebanese—and it regards the Washington meeting as yet another milestone for building a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Minister Yosi Sarid and Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq reported to the cabinet on the Israeli rescue mission that leaves for Rwanda tonight. Our correspondent reports that Israel is sending eight transport planes carrying doctors, nurses, and medical equipment. Minister Sarid said it is the biggest aid operation in the

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state's history. He said Israel is one of the first countries in the world to extend aid to the disaster area.

### Paper: Summit Marks End of Strife

*TA2407102194 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 94 p 6*

[Editorial: "Prudence, and Pollard Too"]

[Text] As Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres depart for the meeting with King Husayn in the White House, there is virtually no dissent in Israel on the usefulness of the trip. There is a national consensus on peace with Jordan, or—to be more accurate—on the desirability of converting a de facto state of nonbelligerency into a formal treaty. And though no one expects the first public meeting between an Israeli prime minister and the Jordanian monarch to result in such a treaty at once, the general assumption is that the meeting is the first step in that direction.

Most Israelis also assume that a formal peace with Jordan entails little in the way of Israeli concessions. The strips of land Jordan is demanding, although larger than the whole Gaza District, are not deemed important either strategically or economically. It is thought, too, that Jordanian demands for water can be met without endangering Israel's supplies. And Husayn's ambition to have control over the Jerusalem mosques is deemed far less threatening than Yasir 'Arafat's demand for a Palestinian capital in Jerusalem.

But it would be a mistake to treat Jordan's claims as trivial. First, it is not at all certain that all the territories Jordan wants are beyond Israel's international boundary, nor is it clear Israel is not entitled to them even if they are. The aggressor in the wars between the two countries was, after all, Jordan. That the Jordanians have already published maps showing these lands as annexed to Jordan is hardly encouraging, particularly since Peres has announced that even hawks like MK [Knesset Member] Ari'el Sharon would be satisfied with the new border adjustments. It is to be hoped that the protest against these maps lodged by Foreign Ministry Deputy Director-General Eytan Bentzur means that the negotiations have yet to begin, and that Israel has not forfeited the lands in advance.

Nor should Israel budge from its present position on water. While water projects that can benefit both countries are desirable, Israel owes Jordan nothing for unrealized past projects. It would be a travesty of justice and fairness if Israel had to pay for Arab refusal to cooperate for the last 46 years.

It is perhaps natural that Husayn's willingness to meet publicly with Rabin has made him an object of adulation in Israel. But it may be prudent to remember that Husayn attacked Israel in 1967 and ordered his troops to kill every man, woman and child in their way. To excuse that attack and exonerate Husayn—as former ambassador to Egypt Moshe Sason attempted to do yesterday—by saying that Husayn had been misled by Egyptian dictator Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir into believing the Arabs were winning, is to give sycophancy a bad name. Nor should Israel forget that the very same Western-oriented Husayn identified with Saddam Husayn and the fanatic Jordanian fundamentalists during the Gulf War, and that Jordan helped Iraq in that war more than any country.

The very fact that the U.S. is asking Israel to make concessions to Jordan because the king is weak and his regime needs bolstering should give Israel pause. Governments cannot afford to think only of immediate consequences. If the Hashemite court is weak now, there is no telling what will happen when the popular king departs the scene—particularly if a Palestinian entity claims the allegiance of Jordan's Palestinian population. Concessions to a gentlemanly monarch now may come to haunt Israel if Palestinian radicals or Islamic fundamentalists come to rule in Amman.

This does not mean, of course, that Israel should not use the new Jordanian openness to collaborate with Amman on trade and tourism, even before a peace treaty is signed. Free movement of Israelis in Jordan may serve to remove prejudices and antagonisms; open commercial ties may improve the Jordanian economy and reduce the impact of fundamental fanaticism, and contact with Israelis may encourage democratic inclinations among the kingdom's intelligentsia. The planned Amman-al-'Aqabah-Elat-Sinai road is a welcome first step in this direction.

Husayn has made it clear that there is a price for normalization moves with Israel. In addition to Israeli concessions, he has secured American commitments for economic aid and military assistance. Israel, eager for recognition, has not publicly made any demands. As one commentator has put it, the government's policy used to be "land for peace," now it is "land for handshakes."

There is some talk of asking Washington to foot the bill for the agricultural lands Israel intends to relinquish in the 'Arava and Jordan Valley. But it would be a shame if Rabin and Peres fail to use this opportunity to ask for at least one American gesture—the release of Jonathan Pollard. If Secretary of State Warren Christopher truly believes that the days of war between Arabs and Israelis are over, the Pollard chapter, a direct consequence of that war, should be closed.

Pollard committed a crime for which he had to pay, but he spied for Israel because he believed, correctly, that the US was not living up to its obligation to provide Israel with pertinent intelligence information. Spying for an ally, he did not commit treason or endanger the US in any way, nor was he ever charged with such crimes. As the arrest and investigation of super-spy Aldrich Ames, who betrayed his country for the Soviet Union, has made

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clear, reports that material transferred by Pollard to Israel reached Soviet hands were part of a vicious disinformation campaign.

Spies everywhere are enjoying the fruits of a new atmosphere. FBI agent Richard Miller, who did commit treason by spying for the USSR, has been freed after serving a small portion of his 20-year sentence. Israel has released an Israeli officer convicted of spying for the US. But Pollard is still serving the longest sentence ever imposed on anyone charged with a similar offense in the history of the United States. It is time Israel made an official request to end his incarceration, and there can be no better opportunity to do so than the meeting in the White House, signaling the end of the era of strife in the Middle East.

### Minister Reports Jordan To Allow Airspace Passage

*TA2407183594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar told the cabinet today that Jordan has agreed to allow Israel to use its airspace for flights to India and the Far East. It has also been learned that the United States asked Saudi Arabia to allow El Al planes to overfly its airspace en route to the Far East.

### Official on Plans for Jordanian-Israeli 'Riveria'

*TA2207164494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Excerpt] Israel and Jordan are working on a joint plan to build riverias on the Dead and Red seas. This was disclosed by Eli Gonen, the director general of the Tourism Ministry, who has just returned from two days of talks with Jordanians. He talked to Steve Linde at a conference on tourism in Jerusalem this morning:

[Begin Gonen recording] We decided, with my colleague, the director general of the Ministry of Tourism of Jordan, to establish a tourism committee which will be separated into four working groups. The subjects are free movement between the two countries in both sides; the development of a master plan for tourism in this region; the joint subcommittee for marketing and promotion for both countries; and one subcommittee for the development of a riveria in the Red Sea—and two parks at the lowest point on earth, and the underwater park on the Red Sea. We decided that those subcommittees will report, at least the first report, to the joint committee not later than the end of November. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### Rabin Bureau Clarifies Remarks to PANORAMA on Golan

*TA2407100394 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 24 Jul 94 p 1*

[Report by ITIM correspondent Shay Bazaq]

[Excerpt] Late last week, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin denied having allegedly said in an interview with the PANORAMA newspaper that Israel is ready to withdraw from all of the Golan Heights.

"The prime minister's remarks in the interview referred to a withdrawal on the Golan in accordance with the policy of the government and not to a withdrawal from all of the Golan Heights," the Prime Minister's Bureau clarified, stressing that it has a recording of the interview. [passage omitted]

### American Stabbed in Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem

*NC2307210294 Paris AFP in English 2053 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Jerusalem, July 23 (AFP)—Two Palestinian men stabbed and seriously wounded an American woman in the Moslem quarter of Jerusalem's old city late Saturday [23 July], police said.

The 19-year-old tourist was stabbed with knives in the neck and back while she was walking through the quarter and was taken to an Israeli hospital in Jerusalem in critical condition, the police said. Her identity was not released.

Police launched a manhunt and sealed off all the gates of the old city. An investigation was under way, the police said.

### Nabulus Resident Killed, 18 Locals Hurt in Clashes

*TA2207162494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Text] In Nabulus, a local resident was killed and five others wounded when Israeli soldiers opened fire to break up a disturbance. The Qol Yisra'el reporter adds that disturbances were also reported today in Hebron. Thirteen local residents were wounded when soldiers opened fire to disperse the demonstrators.

### Sources: Iran-Backed Group Behind Buenos Aires Bomb

*TA2307131794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Excerpt] A Lebanese group calling itself (Ansarallah), the Followers of God, has claimed responsibility for the bomb that destroyed the community center in Buenos Aires. A statement to this effect was included in a leaflet distributed by the organization in the Lebanese port of Sidon. Sources in Sidon told reporters that the organization is linked to the Hizballah, and that it was first heard of some three months ago. The organization is threatening to battle and confront Zionism everywhere through suicidal units working to restore Islamic and Arab dignity.

In Buenos Aires, Argentine President Carlos Menem and the chief of the country's security service confirmed that

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they had received similar intelligence about the Lebanese group's responsibility from the Israeli intelligence service, the Mosad. An Argentine radio station reported last night that the same group has claimed responsibility for planting the bomb on the Panamanian plane this week, killing all 21 people on board.

Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said last night that the bomb could not have been planted without cooperation from Argentine terrorist elements. He was speaking to Minister of Tourism 'Uzi Bar'am, who represented the Israeli Government at last night's memorial service in the great synagogue in Buenos Aires. Bar'am is accompanied by the deputy speaker of the Knesset, 'Ovadya Eli. Bar'am said that Israel demands that Argentina assume responsibility for preventing such attacks. President Menem has been bitterly criticized for failing to apprehend the terrorists who destroyed the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires with a car bomb two years ago. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 23 July adds the following: "Dov Shmoraq, assistant director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, who went to Argentina following the attack, told correspondents that extremist Islamic organizations backed by Iran are responsible for the attack. Authoritative Israeli sources have confirmed that after the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires two years ago, the investigators were hampered by official elements at the high echelons of the Argentine police and security services. An authoritative source told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that at the time the investigators gained a clear impression that an attempt was being made to prevent them from uncovering links between Argentine officials and wealthy neo-Nazi bodies."]

### Inquiry Shows Erez Checkpoint Riots Not Preplanned

*TA2407110994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Investigations of last week's riots at the Erez checkpoint show that they were not preplanned, but Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] exploited the anger of the Palestinians not granted entry permits and moved in to ferment unrest. The commander of the northern brigade in the Gaza Strip, Colonel Sha'ul, said the Palestinian commanders admitted they lost control of events. Palestinian police had fired at Israeli soldiers due to a misunderstanding and on the initiative of junior Palestinian officers.

At the Erez checkpoint this morning, about 15,000 workers from the Gaza Strip went to jobs in Israel. The commander of the northern sector of the Palestinian police went to the checkpoint to examine the arrangements and coordination with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] at first hand. The Palestinians set up more barriers to regulate the movement of workers.

### Erez Victim Dies; Soldier Injured Near Hebron

*TA2507063394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 25 Jul 94*

[Text] The border policeman who was critically wounded in the riots at the Erez junction last week died this morning in Beersheba's Soroka Hospital. First Sergeant Jacques Atias, who was 25, will be buried later today at Moshav Rekhasim.

In al-Zahiriyah, south of Hebron, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was injured in the head when an Army patrol was stoned by Palestinians last night. Soldiers with him opened fire and used tear gas to disperse the stone throwers. The soldier was taken to a nearby clinic after receiving first aid from a medic on the spot.

### Minister Leaves With Team To Aid Rwandan Refugees

*TA2507064194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 25 Jul 94*

[Interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by correspondent Jack Katzenell; place and date not given—recorded; first paragraph is Qol Yisra'el introduction]

[Text] Israel last night sent eight Hercules planes carrying a medical team and 80 tonnes of supplies to Goma in Zaire to provide aid to refugees from Rwanda. The planes have just begun landing in Goma on the Zairian border. An 80-member humanitarian mission led by Environment Minister Yosi Sarid will set up a 120-bed field hospital on the border. Before leaving, Sarid spoke to Jack Katzenell about the operation:

[Sarid] It is a major operation being taken by Israel. We are sending eight cargo aircraft. It is an unprecedented operation in Israeli terms, and I believe that even by comparison to other countries in the world, we are going to be one of the first countries to be present there, and their presence will be relatively dominant and as helpful as possible.

[Katzenell] The commander of the field hospital said that really, with a million people there, what we can give is a drop in the ocean. Do you share his feeling of frustration or despair about that?

[Sarid] Of course, you can feel a feeling of frustration and despair, but what is the alternative? To do nothing? We have decided to do something about it, and I believe we are not going to be there alone. The international community will be present there in the very near future, and by common effort, we will save lives. There is no more mission than saving lives.

[Katzenell] Is this part of a trend? Are we going to see Israel taking part in international peacekeeping forces in the future?

[Sarid] Humanitarian-keeping forces, yes, yes.

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[Katzenell] But not peacekeeping forces, such as....

[Sarid, interrupting] It is very difficult to draw a distinction between a humanitarian mission and peace mission, so I believe it is quite appropriate for Israel to be more dominant and to be present everywhere when an urgent help is need.

### EU Aid Office Location Outside Jerusalem Discussed

*TA2407120294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jul 94 p A3*

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir left for Brussels Friday [22 July] to discuss the location of a European Union [EU] office to supply technical aid to the Palestinian self-administration. To date the office has operated in Jerusalem, but Israel has requested that it move either to Gaza or Jericho. Savir met with Juan Pratt [name as transliterated], director general of the EU Office of Mediterranean Affairs. Political sources said yesterday that the European aid office will operate "close to the aid recipients—the Palestinian administration offices."

The understanding that the office will operate out of Gaza or Jericho still needs to be formulated and formally approved. The office will handle EU aid to the Gaza-Jericho self-rule areas, as well as to West Bank areas still under Israeli jurisdiction. The Foreign Ministry handled the problem of the European aid offices very discreetly, attempting to play down the negotiations with the EU on this matter. The ministry's press release on the director general's trip did not refer to the matter at all, merely stating that Savir's talks would "focus on the ongoing negotiations with the EU on a new economic and political agreement."

Israel maintains that the EU has so far operated the Jerusalem office under various names. The Europeans turned down all Israeli requests to move the office out of Jerusalem, including appeals made at the highest levels.

The Foreign Ministry director general is accompanied on his trip by Yo'el Singer, the ministry's legal adviser; Yehuda Milo, the Europe First Division director; and 'Oded 'Eran, assistant director general in charge of economics.

The new Israel-EU agreement is also being discussed in talks with senior EU officials.

### More Funds for Police Following Gaza-Jericho Accord

*TA2207170594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Text] An additional 40 million shekels will be allocated to the Police Ministry to finance additional costs due to the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The additional funds will pay for adding about 700 more policemen to the force.

### IDF Reduces Forces in Territories

*TA2407145494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces stationed in Judaea and Samaria, mainly in the Hebron area, have been reduced. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the IDF decided to cut the size of its deployed units to add training days and in view of a new situation analysis which says the territories have calmed down.

In 1994, the IDF killed 14 fugitives, arrested 21, and another 20 turned themselves in. Three terror squads operate in Judaea and Samaria at this time, one of which operates in Hebron. Their main activity focuses on throwing firebombs.

Our correspondent reports that it is believed in the IDF that confrontations with the Jewish settlers in the territories is the most difficult task facing IDF soldiers, but there were only a few incidents in which soldiers refused to evacuate settlers. Those soldiers were tried and confined to base due to their refusal to obey orders.

Our correspondent adds that fugitives have found refuge in the Jericho region, but the IDF does not know their exact number.

[Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 24 July adds that, speaking at the cabinet session today, "Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq said that there has been a serious deterioration in the security situation in the Gaza Strip since Yasir 'Arafat arrived there."]

### Government, Histadrut Agree on Emergency Funding

*TA2407103294 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 94 p 12*

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld and Judy Siegel]

[Excerpt] The government and the Histadrut agreed on a NIS [new Israeli shekels] 600 million emergency funding package to keep Kupat Holim Clalit [Histadrut sick fund] running for the next two months, the Treasury reported on Friday [22 July].

Under the agreement, which was reached between Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, Histadrut Secretary-General Hayim Ramon, Health Minister Efrayim Sne, and health fund officials, the government will pay NIS520m., while the remaining NIS80m. will come from deferring the payment of clothing and leisure allowances to Clalit workers.

Ramon said he would put a lien on Histadrut property, if necessary, to cover the labor federation's commitment to its health fund. [passage omitted]

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## Labor Makes Deal With SHAS; Meretz Threatens Veto

*TA2207133694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Text] The Labor party and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] have signed a memorandum on the latter's return to the coalition.

Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the meeting between the prime minister, the leaders of SHAS, the leaders of Meretz, and the Labor party secretary general ended a short while ago. At the conclusion of the meeting, Nisim Zvili, the Labor party's secretary general, said that the final signing of the agreement still depended on the results of the discussions with Meretz leaders.

Meretz Knesset Member Ran Kohen said that his faction was opposed to what he called preeminent religious laws. Kohen asserted that if Labor's agreement with SHAS violated the coalition agreement, Meretz would employ its veto rights.

## High Court Rules Against YI'UD MK's Joining Cabinet

*TA2507075694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 25 Jul 94*

[Text] In a final order, the High Court of Justice has prohibited the appointment of YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] Knesset Members [MK's] Gonen Segev and Alex Goldfarb to cabinet posts. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that the decision was passed by a majority of three, consisting of President Me'ir Shamgar and Justices Eli'ezer Goldberg and Tzvi Tal, with two justices—Theodor Or and Michel Heshin—opposing. The court will issue its arguments at a later date.

The High Court ruling is an interpretation of the Basic Law: The Government, which prohibits the appointment of an MK who has left his party to the post of minister or deputy minister. The court apparently accepted the argument of the appellants, the Betzedeq organization and Tzomet's managing director, that the ban also applies to a breakaway faction and not only to individual MK's.

Tzomet Secretary Doron Shmu'eli told our correspondent that the court ruling is a victory for democracy. He said that contacts are currently under way to bring MK Ester Salmovitz back to Tzomet but that Segev and Goldfarb will not be able to return.

YI'UD Managing Director Hemi Doron said that the High Court did not prohibit appointing the two MK's to senior noncabinet positions and that this might be the solution to this legal situation.

MK Segev told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that he must study the court ruling. He claims the intent behind the basic law: The government was not as the court has interpreted it. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht cites the YI'UD faction as saying it was promised that if the High Court prevents it from joining the government, speedy legislation will be introduced to facilitate the move.

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## U.S. 'Letter of Assurance' Said Received

*JN2507075194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jul 94 pp 1, 7*

[Report by Nirmin Murad]

[Excerpt] Amman—The historical meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington today will not only signal the end of the state of belligerency between the two countries but is expected to determine where the Kingdom will fit in what analysts describe as the new regional order.

Cabinet sources told the JORDAN TIMES Sunday [24 July] that Jordan has received a letter of assurance from the U.S. Administration over its intended economic and military aid to the Kingdom, signed by President Bill Clinton with the knowledge and approval of the U.S. Congress.

"President Bill Clinton signed the letter of assurances to Jordan in the presence of representatives of Congress," a source told the JORDAN TIMES.

Most officials and diplomats, contacted by the JORDAN TIMES since President Clinton announced that King Husayn and Mr. Rabin had accepted their invitation to meet at the White House on July 25, said they believed the King will at least make an oral declaration of non-belligerency with Israel.

While no one expected the King to sign a formal peace treaty or even a formal declaration of non-belligerency, most agree that the announcement even though only verbal, will serve as another "confidence-building" measure that would emphasise the Kingdom's commitment to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The Kingdom has already taken the lead in this regard by allowing bilateral negotiations with Israel to move into the region and by hosting a trilateral meeting that saw the first ever Israeli cabinet minister on Jordanian soil. [passage omitted]

## Crown Prince Hasan on Negotiations With Israel

*AU2507122094 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 25 Jul 94 p 115*

[Interview with Crown Prince Bin-Talal Hasan by unidentified DER SPIEGEL correspondent; place and date not given: "The Time Is Ripe"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Last week, Foreign Minister [Shim'on] Peres was the first Israeli Government member to set foot on Jordanian soil after 46 years of a state of war, and as early as this week, King Husayn and Jerusalem's Prime Minister [Yitzhaq] Rabin will meet for a peace summit in Washington. What is the reason for this abrupt rapprochement?

[Hasan] We do not rush anything, but we are moving within the framework of the milestones of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

[DER SPIEGEL] Are you not rather driven by U.S. pressure and the danger that Israel and the PLO might come to an agreement behind your back—at Israel's expense?

[Hasan] The United States is not putting any pressure on us. By their mediation work, they are making a significant contribution to overcoming the obstacles that Jordan and Israel still have to cope with.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is Israel's double strategy not giving you trouble? First Jerusalem holds out the prospect of close economic cooperation, but then the same government agrees with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on close cooperation in the autonomous territories at Jordan's expense.

[Hasan] There are disagreements, which have to be eliminated. However, we do not take action because some side forced us to move. Jordan makes its own policy.

[DER SPIEGEL] Now your Arab neighbor, Syria, is facing the Israelis virtually alone in the peace negotiations and might accuse you of an egoistic "separate peace."

[Hasan] Jordan is in permanent contact with the Syrian leadership. Damascus let us know that it supports our efforts to regain our territory that is occupied by Israel and to lay down our right to more water from the Jordan River and the Yarmuk River.

[DER SPIEGEL] That is to say, Syria will accept it if Jordan signs a peace agreement with Israel?

[Hasan] Syria not only assured us, but also the U.S. secretary of state, that it is interested in peace with Israel itself.

[DER SPIEGEL] But only in a comprehensive peace agreement, not a separate peace agreement, not to speak of the violation of the Arab boycott provisions against Israel.

[Hasan] We also insist on overall peace. Supraregional questions—for example, the problem of the Palestinians who fled from their homeland or were expelled—can only be solved in an international framework. On the other hand, problems that only concern Israel and one of its neighbors can definitely be solved bilaterally. This is exactly what the Palestinians are doing. And, in fact, the Israel boycott hardly exists any longer. No, the time is ripe, we cannot escape from the spirit of the time.

[DER SPIEGEL] When will the Jordanians feel the advantages of the peace negotiations that have been initiated with Israel?

[Hasan] Very soon. The atmosphere of war and hostility has already disappeared. We are on the point of preparing an entire package of practical reliefs: from improvements in the cross-border traffic—the Jordanian-Israeli border will soon be opened between Aqaba and Eilat—to expensive joint projects, such as a connecting canal between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea for the use of water power.

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## Al-'Anani on Negotiations, Syria, Peace Treaty

*JN2207191794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1742 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani by Salim Badawi in Amman "on the eve of King Husayn's departure for Washington"—recorded]

[Text] [Al-'Anani] For Jordan, the peace option is, in all probability, irreversible. The dynamism of movement on the Jordanian-Israeli track is now stronger than at any time in the past. This is not to say that peace in its contractual or legal form is just around the corner. Before we get there, a long distance has to be covered.

[Badawi] King Husayn has stated that Jordan is not pursuing peace with Israel at any price. What price is peace for Jordan? What kind of price does Jordan want by rights?

[Al-'Anani] His majesty made the point by way of responding to those who say Jordan will rush into a peace treaty with Israel as a result of the pressure to which it is coming under. However, he said that Jordan wants peace, but we will not have peace dictated to us. This is because we have clear rights to water and territory that must be met. And there is an agenda that we worked out and signed with the Israelis on 14 September. His majesty said that the items on the agenda must be negotiated. Jordan has also to take a comprehensive settlement into account as it proceeds with the peace process and mind what is taking place on the other tracks. While Jordan does not want to lag behind other tracks, it does not want to be well ahead of them either...

[Badawi, interrupting] Or to proceed unilaterally, as it has been charged?

[Al-'Anani] I do not think that the word unilateral is relevant any longer. This is because others have gone ahead of us to an agreement.

[Badawi] At the opening of the bilateral talks at Wadi al-'Arabah, the Jordanian and Israeli sides stated their confidence a peace treaty will be signed eventually. What did they base their optimism and confidence on, when the negotiations were just beginning?

[Al-'Anani] The Israelis showed they are prepared to recognize Jordan's sovereignty in the matters of territory and water. They have said they are prepared to consider other topics on the agenda, specifically the refugees and displaced persons. If these basic topics are placed on the Jordanian agenda, together with suitable security arrangements, then we are on the way to a peace treaty. However, agreement on the terms of reference for a resolution of these issues, beginning to demarcate the borders or address the refugee issue or come to an understanding about any kind of cooperation once the peace treaty is signed will not mean that a settlement has been reached. These issues take time to resolve. We, therefore, are now past the stage of agreeing on principles to the stage of implementing them either on the ground, legally, or politically.

[Badawi] You say that a unilateral settlement is not on the table any longer. But Crown Prince Hasan has not ruled out a peace treaty before real progress on the Syrian track?

[Al-'Anani] The Syrian track has its own circumstances, as has the Jordanian track. We believe, however, that collective Arab action is a must if we are to be mutually supportive. But I think that rumors about Jordanian-Syrian differences are blown out of all proportion. I have not heard a single Syrian official levelling specific accusations. Certain quarters influenced by or mirroring the Syrian position may have spoken about differences. As a Jordanian minister, I cannot react to or analyze statements or evaluations by third parties. I think that Jordanian-Syrian relations are far cosier than many think. From our own sources of information we know enough about what is taking place on other tracks to enable us to judge whether the other tracks are mobile and going in the right direction or whether they are static. We are anxious to see movement on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks; progress on the two tracks is especially important and without them making headway, peace itself in the Middle East will remain unstable and volatile.

[Badawi] But, do you support what Prince Hasan has said?

[Al-'Anani] As I have told you, the issue is being raised now as if Jordan's signing before or after Syria is the main issue. It is not. We are looking for the substance. What is the substance of peace? Are we competing with the other Arab parties over signing? I do not think so. I believe the process of coordination should focus on substance, not form. People concentrate on form, but we in Jordan concentrate on substance.

[Badawi] Practical negotiations with the Israeli side have begun. This has coincided with normalization of relations. Shim'on Peres has officially visited Jordan, and King Husayn will have a summit meeting with the Israeli prime minister in Washington next Monday [25 July]. How should we understand this linkage and synchrony between negotiations and normalization?

[Al-'Anani] People devise expressions and start using them without really understanding what they mean. First, when any party sits.... [pauses] we used to say that we would not sit with the Israelis in direct dialogue or negotiations. This had been the Arab attitude until the Madrid conference. After the Madrid conference, there were meetings between official Arab and Israeli delegations. Was this part of normalization or not? The fact that the negotiations move from one stage to another on the level of official meetings does not mean normalization. It means that things have changed and required a higher level of meetings so that decisions may be made to advance the peace process to resolve the basic issues correctly. But to say that normalization is a meeting between two officials, I do not think this is correct. There is a dynamism within the negotiating process that entails new developing forms. What is not acceptable at some point could become acceptable, as long as it does not affect the substance of the negotiating process, which is to attain rights.

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[Badawi] A question that must be asked. Has the fear of resolving the Palestine question at Jordan's expense—if we may say so—expedited normalization with Israel? By fear, I mean fear from the argument of the alternative homeland which has been frequently repeated by extremists or the right in Israel?

[Al-'Anani] You have once again used the word normalization. I do not accept this word, to start with. Therefore, in order for this word not to sound acceptable, I want to note my objection to it again.

[Badawi] Of course. But what I mean are the visits of senior officials to Jordan, and perhaps this will be followed by the visits of senior Jordanian officials to Israel later. This is part of normalizing relations between countries.

[Al-'Anani] I do not think this is the meaning of normalization. This is just a meeting for a certain purpose that soon ends. This is not normalization.

[Badawi] Yes, what about the question of fear?

[Al-'Anani] It is not a question of fear. You know that the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks are thoroughly interlocked. The progress made on the Palestinian track was a motivation for a shift on the Jordanian track. Similarly, progress on the Jordanian track will affect the other tracks. There is no doubt about that. All the tracks are interlocked. However, the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is very strong and interlocked. Therefore, what happens on any track affects what is happening on the other track. I think this was one of the reasons that activated the Jordanian track. But this was not the only reason. This was not a good enough reason, but it had an effect. There are other reasons that prompted Jordan to make a decision at that time.

[Badawi] What about future relations with the Palestinian self-rule or the independent Palestinian entity in the future. There is, for example, the question of the right of overseeing the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem. Shim'on Peres has asserted this week that Israel has no plans to give these rights to the Palestinians and that these rights shall remain the responsibility of Jordan. After making this important progress on the Jordanian track, will this affect your view or future relationship with the Palestinian self-rule?

[Al-'Anani] Never, the subject of Jerusalem, as you know, is much more sensitive and complicated than it appears. The responsibility for preserving the holy places is a Jordanian-Palestinian responsibility, and then it is an Arab-Islamic responsibility. There are Christian holy places, so the Christian Arabs should also have a role in the jurisdiction rights over the Christian holy places in Jerusalem. Jordan has continued to preserve the holy places through the Jordanian Awqaf establishment. Jordan has not only preserved these places but has direct links with the awqaf issues and the restoration of al-Aqsa Mosque and other places carried out by Jordan. There is also the historical dimension that makes the Hashemite family attached to the holy places in Jerusalem in particular. We and the Palestinians should not differ on the subject of jurisdiction over the holy places. This subject should not be open to differences that may arise from rivalry. This will create a flaw in the legitimacy of jurisdiction over Jerusalem and will open cracks through which, for instance, some Israeli sides can penetrate, as the Temple Mount Faithful once tried to do. Therefore, we should approach this subject with a higher degree of prudence and contemplation, and with a study of the legal, religious, and religious dimensions, and not view it merely as a political objective over which we compete. The subject of Jerusalem is much more important than this.

[Badawi] In your view, are there other issues, for example economic or financial issues, in which you may share responsibility with the Palestinians in the self-rule areas?

[Al-'Anani] Never. We should first emphasize that we want to stress an independent Palestinian identity, and that Jordan has always supported and emphasized this identity. The decision to disengage links [with the West Bank] adopted by his majesty the king in 1988 was a decision aimed to give prominence to the Palestinian identity on the Palestinian soil, and entrenching the Jordanian identity on the Jordanian soil [word indistinct] the doubt that had been cast by some extremist officials in Israel. We we are looking for warm and cooperative relations due to the intermingled interests. We need to organize these relations without any competiton. I always hope that we will have the opportunity to rebuild these relations in light of the political developments, because these relations are essentially relations among peoples before being mere political relations. The interlinked relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples—despite the need to preserve the identity of each people—are great and impact on the interests of the two sides. These relations need to be organized rather than coordinated.

[Badawi] In your view, will progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track lead to this objective?

[Al-'Anani] We hope so. We are the ones who decide the objective to which these relations should lead. We should not leave this for others to decide.

[Badawi] What is the purpose of the Washington meeting next Monday?

[Al-'Anani] First of all, we all took part in the peace process under U.S. and Russian sponsorship. There is no exception for anyone concerning this fact. Secondly, we know that the other tracks move with U.S. efforts, U.S. mediation and sponsorship. Therefore, if a direct meeting is held between his majesty the king and the Israeli prime minister in Washington under U.S. sponsorship it is part of what is taking place on all other Arab tracks.

[Badawi] Regarding the purpose, will this mean the end of the state of war between Jordan and Israel, and is it really expected that the final statement will declare the

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end of the state of war between Jordan and Israel as a responsible and informed source in Amman said?

[Al-'Anani] First of all, what do you mean by the state of war. Do you mean from the effective point of view or from the legal point of view? If you mean ending the state of war from the effective point of view, the state of war, to a large extent, is over. If you mean the legal point of view, this should come as a result of a joint study. In my view, those who raise this question want an open declaration to entrench the fait accompli. From the legal point of view, ending the state of war should be subjected to studies and should have principles. It should be subjected to written agreements. It cannot be mere verbal talk before cameras and the press.

[Badawi] So we should not expect such a declaration at the Washington summit next Monday?

[Al-'Anani] I cannot decisively say yes or no, but I think this is unlikely.

### Further Remarks on Peace Talks

*NC2507080994 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 25 Jul 94*

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, in Washington, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on 25 July; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. al-'Anani, welcome to our program.

[Al-'Anani] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] How significant is today's meeting between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin?

[Al-'Anani] The meeting is not accidental nor was it arranged on the spur of the moment. It was preceded by extensive preparations and developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track of the peace talks. Two meetings were held earlier this month. Jordanian and Israeli delegations met to discuss vital issues concerning water, borders, and security. A trilateral meeting was then held, with the participation and chairmanship of the United States, to discuss economic issues concerning Jordan and Israel. Marked progress took place in these two meetings, paving the way for the invitation sent by President Bill Clinton to King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin to meet in Washington.

Two meetings will take place here. The first will be held at the White House. King Husayn and Rabin will then deliver speeches before the U.S. Congress. The meeting is expected to launch the Jordanian-Israeli track into a new phase and accelerate its pace. The meeting in itself draws wide interest on various levels. I believe that the meeting will stress progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track and produce a faster pace of progress in the future.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Are we to expect the signing of agreements between Jordan and Israel in today's meeting between King Husayn and the Israeli prime minister?

[Al-'Anani] No. The discussion will focus on ending the state of belligerency [inha' halat al-'ada'] between the two countries. This will be the main topic. The legal expression of such a declaration has not been drafted yet. It may involve oral statements by the king and the Israeli prime minister in which they will declare the ending of the state of belligerency. This, in English, is called ending the state of belligerency [preceding five words in English]. This is not equivalent to the initiation of the phase of peace [al-dukhul fi marhalat al-silm], because these are two different things. The second, the initiation of the phase of peace, has, of course, to be part of a peace agreement. It is still too early to speak of a peace agreement.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In the negotiations held so far between you and Israel, have you reached an agreement concerning the final borders between you and Israel?

[Al-'Anani] No. The drawing up of borders naturally takes a long time and requires technical, on-site work. Jordanian-Israeli borders are approximately 600-km long, not counting the borders between Jordan and the West Bank. Certain geographical elements may present technical difficulties that will call for some research to be done.

Therefore, we have reached an agreement in principle that there are international borders that have to be recognized and that the point of reference regarding these borders is the 1928 mandate agreement. We have also agreed to form a standing committee to draw up the borders. We agreed that the said committee will meet continually until it accomplishes its task.

Maps will be prepared for some of the difficult points and various details will be looked into. A written statement concerning the drawing up of borders will be prepared before the border markers are put up.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Can we say that Jordan will be the second country after Egypt that may reach an agreement on the demarcation of borders with Israel?

[Al-'Anani] There is no time limit. An agreement may take four to six months and perhaps more. As you know from the Camp David Accords experience, for instance, the Taba issue took a long time to be resolved. A certain point on a certain area may arise and take a long time and require long discussions. If the Israelis show good intentions, I do not think that the process will take more than six months at the most.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] From the negotiations with the Israeli party, have you sensed a positive response from the Israelis to reach an agreement with you?

[Al-'Anani] In fact, the Israeli position on this issue is in principle clear, but in terms of practical implementation the Israelis are still not using a completely clear language.

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We want more clear statements and unequivocal recognition. They accept the principle but they formulate their acceptance in a language that is not specific. Therefore, I tend to believe that the process of demarcating the borders will not take place quickly.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] There are reports that Israel is trying to create problems between you and the Palestinians over Jerusalem. How true are these reports?

[Al-'Anani] I do not know that there are any problems. This may require direct coordination with the Palestinian party so that the picture can be cleared up. I believe that the continuing lack of communications will make each party misinterpret one another's stance, generating misunderstanding. We hope that we will be able to avoid this misunderstanding.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Last question, can we consider that today's meeting between his majesty King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will give the peace process a real push toward achieving a comprehensive and fair peace in the region, particularly on the Syrian-Israeli track and the Lebanese-Israeli track?

[Al-'Anani] Jordan has unequivocally explained its stance. We want progress on the Jordanian track to push the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks because we believe that a comprehensive peace is the only peace that can survive and be fair. Of course, I expect progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in the next stage because the U.S. Administration—President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher—repeatedly emphasize this point. I believe that differences may continue between the Syrians and Israelis but it seems that there is gradual progress. What essentially matters to us in Jordan is that peace must be comprehensive and resolve all differences among the parties concerned because without solving all issues and establishing a comprehensive peace on all fronts, peace will remain incomplete and unstable.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] We thank you and welcome you on the waves of the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-'Anani] Thank you and we wish you success.

## Al-Majali Views King's Prestige, Presence, Goals

*JN2507113094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Jul 94 pp 1, 21*

[Text] Washington—Perhaps what catches the attention of the observer or reporter in Washington is the significant prestige and distinguished presence which His Majesty King Husayn enjoys as a human being, a king, and a state leader. This is clearly evident in the political and press circles which one can get to meet and talk to.

The reputation of Jordan—this small homeland with limited potential and demographic and geographic balance—is well known due to the respect and appreciation King Husayn enjoys for his role in the region, leverage in the peace process, and permanent presence in the Arab, regional, and international arenas.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said: King Husayn's clear vision and firm belief in those interests of Jordan, Palestine, and the one Arab cause, are what motivates us to move confidently toward a just and comprehensive peace without any hesitation or fear.

Peace will prevail in the region if the intentions of Israel's leaders are true. It is the logical and wise one who looks into issues and recalls the slogans we championed in order to realize that what we are doing only stems from self-confidence, confidence in the future, confidence in future generations, and confidence in the glory and vitality of our nation. Our nation will remain the support and depth in our confrontation of this era's challenges, in providing whatever would immunize the Arab human being, and in endowing our glorious nation with causes of resurgence and power.

Dr. al-Majali added: We should fear no one. We should not fear what is coming our way. Our demands are clear and our rights are well known. So, let us deal with the given facts and make as many gains—linked to our national and pan-Arab interests—as possible without relinquishing any right or neglecting any demand.

## Deputies, Activists Cable Support for Peace Move

*JN2507084594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jul 94 pp 1, 7*

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The Royal Court on Sunday received cables of support from representatives of the various sectors addressed to His Majesty King Husayn and reaffirming support for King Husayn's efforts to defend Jordan's higher interests, achieve a just, comprehensive and durable peace and ensure Jordan's sovereignty over its territories and waters.

Secretary General of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU) Khalid Shuraym told PETRA:

The delicate present circumstances and the current economic and social conditions entail that regional issues and problems be addressed in an open-minded and rational manner.

"Turning Jordan into a strong state and a homeland for all Arabs, ensuring national unity and enhancing the Jordanian institutions' capability to cope with the latest developments and changes are among the major preoccupations of trade unions," he said.

Deputy Hani Hijazin described King Husayn's vision of the future as clear and comprehensive.

The King's visit to the United States aims at helping Jordan regain its occupied territories and sovereignty over Jerusalem, demarcate boundaries, restore Jordan's waters requests and solve the refugees and displaced persons' problem.

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Deputy Ibrahim Shihdah said the king's visit to the U.S. takes place in the context of Jordan's reaffirmation of its principled stands, its belief in the Arab unity, the importance of collective Arab action and harmony between the performance of the Arab parties involved.

Deputy Hammad Abu-Jamus said Jordan could have restored its rights since 1967 and 1977 but it preferred to adhere to collective Arab action and the quest for a comprehensive solution.

However, he added, it had become apparent Jordan was the only country to cling to the firm principles.

Mr. Abu-Jamus said the King's U.S. visit "derives extreme importance since he enjoys the support and backing of his own people and international legitimacy which stresses Jordan's national rights to boundaries, water, environment, security."

Deputy 'Abd-al-Majid al-'Azzam said the King's visit to the U.S. aims at achieving a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and ending the no-war and no-peace state which has exhausted the region's economic powers.

Secretary-General of the Progress and Justice Party 'Ali Farid al-Sa'd said: "The battle for peace requires the mobilisation of efforts of all officials under the Hashemite leadership to discuss details of the agenda for peace."

Mujhim al-Khurayshah, secretary general of the Jordanian National Alliance Party, said the peace process represents "what is affordable at these extraordinary situations and does not represent the ideal situation that we aspire for.

"The international and regional developments, the miserable state of the Arab National and lack of Arab coordination all contribute to the current state of affairs which have led to the development on the Jordanian-Israeli track."

Both Mr. al-Sa'd and Mr. al-Khurayshah shared the opinion that the peace talks held at the Dead Sea and the forthcoming talks between His Majesty King Husayn, U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin should culminate in a peace treaty, which should be signed after all pending issues are addressed properly and a comprehensive peace reached.

Secretary General of the Popular Unity Party Talal al-Ramahi said: "Following the Wadi al-'Arabah meeting between Jordanian and Israeli officials, Jordan has entered a historical stage."

Mr. al-Ramahi said such developments should be viewed with careful optimism. He said Jordanian negotiators "will not abandon any iota of land, or any right."

He said normalisation of relations with Israel should not come before addressing all pending issues.

**Parties Protest Israeli Talks, Urge 'Day of Mourning'**

*JN2407071394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jul 94 p 3*

[Punctuation as published]

[Text] Jordanian political parties opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks Saturday [23 July] issued a statement condemning all negotiations with Israel and calling for a day of mourning in Jordan on July 25 to protest the summit meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington.

The statement, signed by eight parties and the pan-Arab and Jordan People's Committee for confronting normalisation of relations with Israel, said that all meetings designed to endorse the Israeli "enemy's" usurpation of Arab lands and holy shrines should be condemned.

We reject the Jordanian-Zionist negotiations because they do not aim to safeguard our nation's interests; we reject the Oslo and Cairo agreements and the Jordanian-Israeli common agenda; and we call upon all the political forces and national and Islamic organisations to declare their rejection of the meetings and urge them to help foil the conspiracy" said the statement.

It urged trade unions, political parties and other organisations to confront and abort attempts at normalisation of relations with Israel and reassert the Palestinian people's rights to repatriation and the restoration of all Arab rights in occupied Jerusalem and other parts of Palestine.

"The secretaries general of the Parties signing this statement have carefully studied the current Jordanian-Israeli negotiations which started at Wadi Al-'Arabah and the Dead Sea and continue in Washington and would like to warn that the Arab Nation is facing the most serious danger in its history with the continuation of the Arab-Israeli talks because they are aimed at harming the nation's identity and ceding Palestine to the Zionist enemy," said the statement.

The current talks, charged the statement, are clearly designed to transform the central Palestinian issue into a question of borders and water rights, something which would open the door for Israel to penetrate into the heart of the Arab World and ensure Zionist hegemony over Arab destiny.

The current negotiations represent an embodiment of unilateral deals with Israel and a departure from the comprehensive solution, and they are being conducted under the auspices of the United States, "the enemy of the Arab Nation" and the sponsor of the Jewish entity and leader of the 30-nation coalition that destroyed Iraq, the statement continued.

Citing the example of Egypt, which normalised its relations with Israel 15 years ago, the statement said false promises are being given to the Arabs about prosperity in the region as a result of peace with Israel, adding that Egypt continues to face the worst economic situation as a consequence.

"While we reaffirm our keenness on regaining every inch of occupied Jordanian land, we also warn that the restoration of Jordanian rights should not be done at the expense of the occupied Arab territories the statement said.

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The parties that signed the statement were: The Jordan Arab Ba'th Socialist party, the Islamic Action Front Party, the National Action Front Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordan People's Democratic Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party and the Arab Jordan Democratic Party. [sentence as published]

### Parties Call for 'Peaceful' Sit-In

*JN2507081094 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Jul 94 p 1*

[Text] Political parties opposed to the negotiations and the peace process along with the Professional Unions Council have called for a peaceful sit-in at al-Husayni Mosque Square at 1200 today, Monday [25 July]. Meanwhile, the Islamic Action Front called for a day of mourning on this day.

### Government Said Preparing To Cancel Boycott of Israel

*JN2407171694 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 23 Jul 94 p 2*

[Report by Khalil Khurmah in Amman]

[Text] AL-BAYAN has learned that the Jordanian Government has adopted the necessary steps to cancel legislation concerning the boycott of Israel.

Jordanian economic sources told AL-BAYAN correspondent in Amman that the Ministry of Industry and Trade has begun practical measures to cancel the secondary and tertiary boycott, which means canceling the boycott of companies that deal with Israel or that deal with other companies which have branches in Israel.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian Ministry of Industry and Trade has adopted a decision allowing exportation of Jordanian goods to the Palestinian self-rule areas, and allowing goods to be transported via Jordan through the Jordanian free zones. These goods will be treated the same as goods that are transported to neighboring countries.

Dr. Rima Khalaf, Jordanian minister of industry and trade, has obtained the Council of Ministers' approval to provide facilities to investment companies that will operate in the self-rule areas.

Jordanian economic and parliamentary sources disclosed that the Ministry of Industry and Trade presented an integrated plan to the Council of Ministers on trade exchange between Jordan and Israel. The Ministry also presented details of joint projects that will be set up by Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli sides.

These sources expected that a Jordanian-Israeli trade agreement will be signed at the next meeting of the Jordanian-Israeli Economic Committee which will be held on 15 August. This agreement will be similar to the one Israel signed in Paris recently with the Palestinian self-rule authority.

### Paper: 'Direct Negotiation' 'Indispensable'

*JN2307111094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Jul 94 pp 1, 18*

[Editorial: "Negotiations on Firm Ground"]

[Text] Carrying the message of the homeland and the nation and adhering to genuine pan-Arab principles, his majesty, the leader of the country, left for Washington on a difficult, tough mission. This mission represents the climax of political moves in a long battle for peace that aims to push the peace march forward and wrest Jordanian sovereignty over its national soil and resources.

The king is going to Washington for the historic summit meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton and the Israeli prime minister, armed with a clear political vision and with national and pan-Arab principles based not on barter or compromises but on international legitimacy and resolutions; and with overwhelming popular support and large-scale Arab support for Jordan's wise steps to break the deadlock and avoid a collapse in the peace process and the threat to peace and security in the region, should peace moves fail.

During his visit to Washington last month, His Majesty King Husayn was able to wrench U.S. recognition of the central importance of the Jordanian role in the peace process and in the region's stability and peace, transforming it from an arena of war and confrontation to an oasis of peace, safety, and cooperation. This prompted President Clinton to present his initiative to activate the role of the United States in pushing the wheels of peace forward in its capacity as the primary sponsor of the peace process. It also prompted the U.S. President to support Jordan on all levels in order to continue its leading role in the region and its issues.

The Washington summit is an important turning point in a peace process that cannot reach its goals through multiple channels or a third party. Direct negotiation with the other party on firm ground on rights and basic demands is indispensable. Negotiations cannot reach any useful results unless doubts and barriers, which have formed an abnormal condition for dealing with reality, are removed, given that negotiations and meetings are governed by constant, agreed upon principles and firm points. These principles and points were amply clear during the bilateral and trilateral talks held over the past week, and will be crowned with the trilateral summit in Washington two days from now.

In all the phases of negotiations in the peace process, Jordan has never resorted to bartering or haggling over any of its rights and the rights of its [Arab] nation, especially in terms of withdrawal from the occupied territories, affirming sovereignty over them, and marking the borders and recognizing them legally and politically, as stipulated in the provisions of the Jordanian- Israeli agenda. Cooperation, joint projects, and prospects for large-scale regional economic cooperation must be based on legal and political agreements to

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resolve all issues and govern the links between the issues of the territories, waters, environment, and the economy.

In its serious and brave moves, Jordan realizes the road to peace is not strewn with roses but with thorns and mines. Many parties oppose the path of peace and work to obstruct it. However, constructive dialogue and sound proposals within the framework of a correct democracy must continue, within our adherence to the National Charter and the national consensus to wage the battle for peace and face its requirements.

To quote His Highness Prince Hasan, we are on the threshold of the peace phase. We are determined to make it fulfill its goals, particularly our national and pan-Arab rights, and the rights of future generations to live in peace, security, and dignity. It is not peace at any price.

### Paper Stresses Importance of Summit

*JN2507125094 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Jul 94 pp 1, 20*

[Editorial: "The Washington Summit And U.S. Responsibilities"]

[Text] The overwhelming popular support, expressed by the majority of the sons of the one Jordanian family in the past few days, and the absolute confidence they voiced in King Husayn's steps toward a peace that is acceptable to future generations, is the solid basis on which his majesty stands as he wages a difficult battle for peace in Washington today. This is a battle which only great leaders dare to wage. These leaders are ones who offer hard sacrifices for the sake of their peoples' interests, for the interest of international peace, and in order to close the chapters of horrible wars and tremendous destruction which the people of the Middle East region have suffered and which resulted in nothing but more backwardness, poverty, oppression, and wasted opportunities.

Today's meeting between King Husayn, Clinton, and Rabin truly represents a historic turning point in the Arab-Israeli conflict and an important momentum to the peace process, which began in Madrid about three years ago. Local, Arab, and the international public is following this event with exceptional interest. Observers expect this summit to cut short the time of achieving a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace—a peace based on the restoration of rights to their owners, at the head of which is Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Jordanian territories, the recognition of Jordan's sovereignty over these territories, and the restoration of its water rights which Israel stole in the past decades.

Thanks to his prudence and piercing political vision, His Majesty King Husayn managed to gain an international respect that is rarely enjoyed by other leaders. His majesty maintained the continuation and reinforcement of friendly relations between Jordan and the United States despite transient crises which these relations witnessed because of Jordan's independent stands toward a number of issues, especially those related to pan-Arab interests, and what happened during the Gulf crisis. In all cases, King Husayn continued to enjoy the special respect of U.S. leaders and officials and of heads of public opinion in the United States.

The fact that King Husayn agreed to hold this summit today reflects the nature of Jordanian-U.S. relations which are based on friendship and mutual respect. Moreover, this summit is a unique opportunity for the leader to explain Jordan's constant stands on the peace process and to openly and clearly voice his demands for our non-negotiable national and pan-Arab rights. It is also an opportunity to test the true Israeli intentions toward peace.

We realize the importance of the promises to which President Clinton's administration is committed as far as pushing the peace process forward and offering economic and military aid to Jordan in return for the Washington summit. However, we also realize that a decisive decision to offer aid to Jordan, starting with the cancellation of its debts, will be a decision made by the U.S. Congress. His Majesty King Husayn's address to the U.S. Congress tomorrow will be an opportunity to explain Jordan's stands and to brief the representatives of the American people on Jordan's seriousness and pioneering role toward peace and stability in the Middle East region, which is very vital to U.S. interests.

We are aware of the influence of the Jewish Lobby inside the U.S. Congress as it plays an influential role in formulating and directing its decisions to serve the interests of Israel. However, developments in the peace process, especially on the Jordanian track, ahead of which is today's Washington summit affirm, without a doubt, the vital role Jordan is playing under King Husayn's leadership in terms of the peace process and stability in the region. Hence, there is no alternative to offering economic aid to it so that it can play this role and in order to remove some of the huge burdens it suffered during the past decades as a result of the conflict and wars.

### Envoy Denies Differences with Palestinians

*NC2407125894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—Nayif al-Qadi, Jordanian ambassador in Cairo and permanent delegate to the Arab League, has denied that there are any differences between Jordan and the Palestinians over the peace process in the Middle East. In a statement to MENA he said that on all issues that Jordan discusses with Israel it guards Jordan's sovereignty.

Al-Qadi expressed his optimism about the results of tomorrow's meeting in Washington between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He described it as a step aimed at achieving a comprehensive, fair, and permanent peace in the Middle East.

Commenting on the statement by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that he expects Jordan and Israel to conclude a peace treaty within a few months, al-Qadi said that it is not possible to set a definite date for signing a peace agreement, adding that what counts are good intentions and a desire to reach a permanent peace in the region.

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## Syria's al-Shar' Holds Talks With al-Hirawi

### Arrives for Talks

*NC2307114994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Report by NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din from the Presidential Palace]

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in the presence of Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Minister of State Shahe Barsoumian. The discussion dealt with the results of the talks U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his tour in the area and the stages reached in the peace process. The talks were held within the framework of coordination and consultation between Lebanon and Syria.

President al-Hirawi will hold a luncheon in honor of Minister al-Shar'. In addition to Ministers Buwayz and Barsoumian, the luncheon will be attended by a number of officials.

Minister al-Shar' arrived at the Syrian-Lebanese border at 1230 today. He was welcomed at the border by Minister Barsoumian because Minister Buwayz was in Zgharta representing the president at the memorial service on the second anniversary of the death of President Sulayman Franjiyah. Ministers al-Shar' and Barsoumian immediately proceeded to B'abda Palace, where the president received them at 1315. A few minutes later they were joined by Minister Buwayz. The talks are still continuing.

### Holds News Conference

*NC2307141094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[News conference by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' with unidentified correspondents at the Presidential Palace in B'abda on 23 July—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shar'] Within the framework of the treaty of cooperation, brotherhood, and coordination between Syria and Lebanon and within the framework of the constant consultations between the two countries's leaders, I conveyed to President Ilyas al-Hirawi a message from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad. The message deals with the outcome of Secretary Christopher's visit to Damascus.

[Correspondent] Secretary Christopher has said there has been no dramatic development on the Syrian-Israeli track and that there are gaps [word indistinct]. What is your comment on this statement?

[Al-Shar'] The bases of the peace process are clear. Syria continues to adhere to these bases. Our brothers in Lebanon also adhere to them, regardless of what has happened on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks. We hope the two cosponsors—especially the United States, which has been undertaking intensive efforts in the past few days and weeks—will implement the bases on which the peace process was founded, namely the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. We believe the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace in the region requires the implementation of these resolutions on all tracks, and more so on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

[Correspondent] Was the Lebanese track discussed with Christopher?

[Al-Shar'] Naturally, the Lebanese track was discussed at length between President Hafiz al-Asad and Secretary Christopher, either on Tuesday [19 July] or during Christopher's visit yesterday. This subject was discussed from all its aspects in view of the parallel nature of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. We believe a just and comprehensive solution requires that real progress be made on these two tracks. Such progress will open the door to a really just and comprehensive peace in the region.

[Correspondent] Do you believe the new proposals conveyed by Christopher are positive?

[Al-Shar'] The proposals conveyed by Christopher are not U.S. proposals. However, we certainly felt that Secretary Christopher understands Syria's just demands for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He was satisfied with what he had heard from President al-Asad on Syria's readiness for and commitment to peace according to the bases of the peace process. The proof is that following his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad on Tuesday, Secretary Christopher said he was leaving Damascus feeling stronger and that he had found great seriousness during his talks with the president. In contrast, when he left Israel the last time before arriving in Damascus, he did not give such an impression on his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin.

### Stresses Commitment to Peace

*JN2307150394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Beirut—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' resumed their talks that began this afternoon over a luncheon hosted by the Lebanese president in honor of the foreign minister.

The luncheon was attended by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

President al-Hirawi received Faruq al-Shar' at 1315 today. Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz then joined the meeting.

The foreign minister conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Al-Shar' reiterated Syria and Lebanon's commitment to the Middle East peace process in accordance with the principles set for this process.

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In a statement to journalists after his meeting with President al-Hirawi, the foreign minister said within the framework of the friendship and coordination treaty between Syria and Lebanon and the continuous consultations between the two leaderships, I conveyed to President al-Hirawi a message from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad. The message deals with the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Damascus.

Al-Shar' said that the bases of the peace process are clear, and that Syria is still committed to these bases, and our brothers in Lebanon are also committed to them regardless of what happened on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks.

He said we believe that realizing just and comprehensive peace in the region requires the implementation of international resolutions on all tracks, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

### Leaves for Home

*NC2307164194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' visited B'abda Palace at noon today, where he was received by President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz attended the meeting, which lasted one hour and five minutes. After the meeting, Minister al- Shar' left for Damascus.

Al-Shar' arrived at the Lebanese-Syrian border at 1230 [as heard]. He was received by Minister of State Shahe Barsoumian, as Minister Buwayz had to go to Zgharta to take part in the second commemoration of the death of [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah.

Minister al-Shar' left Beirut this afternoon for his country.

### Views Intentions of Israel

*NC2307182794 Paris AFP in English 1645 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Beirut, July 23 (AFP)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' accused Israel Saturday [23 July] of trying to split Arab ranks and strike separate peace deals, but said Syria's position on the Middle East peace process remained unchanged.

Speaking to reporters in Beirut, al-Shar' said some of the Arab parties to the talks had "abandoned coordination," but "this does not affect the Syrian or Lebanese tracks" of the peace process. He was referring to the accords Israel has reached with the Palestinians and Jordan. Al-Shar' accused Israel of "an attempt.... to split the Arab parties" to prevent them coordinating among each other.

Israel's negotiations with the PLO and Jordan "do not gain real public support, whether in the Palestinian arena or Jordanian," al- Shar' said. But the position of Syria was not affected, he added. Al-Shar' said the moves so far on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks of the peace process could "not achieve real stability in the region" and might ignite trouble in future.

Earlier al-Shar' briefed Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the outcome of US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Damascus, and handed him a message from Syrian leader Hafiz al-Asad. He said the results of Christopher's talks in Syria ending Friday [22 July] were "serious" and had led to "a better understanding of the Syrian position."

Syria stood by the principles and basis of the peace process launched in Madrid in 1991, al-Shar' said. Christopher ended a five-day shuttle mission between Syria and Israel on Friday with no sign of a breakthrough in their stalled negotiations.

Damascus has constantly updated Beirut after each visit by Christopher. The two countries are linked by a treaty of friendship, cooperation and coordination signed in May 1991, and each says it will not sign a peace treaty with Israel without the other.

Syria demands that Israel first give a pledge to withdraw completely from all occupied Arab territory, including the strategic Golan Heights, seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war. However, Israel wants Syria to commit itself first to full peace with open borders.

## Security Forces Doubt 'Followers of God' Statement

### Group Last Heard From in Italy

*LD2307115894 Rome RAI Due Television Network in Italian 1100 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] A Lebanese Muslim group has claimed responsibility for two anti-Semitic bomb attacks in Buenos Aires and Panama. The group calls itself the Followers of God. The name is almost unknown, and the only other time it has been used was in 1987 in a threat sent to the Italian Government. The threat demanded the release of two militants arrested three years earlier at Rome's Fiumicino airport because they had been found in possession of three kg of explosives.

### Security Conducts Investigation

*MM2507101294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Jul 94 p 3*

[Unattributed report: "Lebanese Security Sources Cast Doubt on 'Followers of God' Statement on Argentina and Panama Bombings"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, Buenos Aires, Panama City, AL-HAYAH, AFP, REUTER, AP—The statement distributed on the evening of the day before yesterday, Friday [22 July], by a group calling itself the Followers of God [Ansarullah], in which it dealt with the bombing of the

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Jewish Association center in Buenos Aires and of a Panamanian passenger plane, has aroused profound suspicions in Beirut.

Competent Lebanese security sources [maraji'] are conducting extensive investigations to determine the truth about the statement issued by the "Followers of God" group, which is sponsored by Major Jamal Sulayman, a Fatah dissident, and of which only a single copy was distributed in Sidon. Investigations are also being conducted "with some of the quarters which are behind this statement in order to determine the truth behind it."

Lebanese security sources have expressed their suspicion about the truth of what was published in this statement, saying that it is no more than a statement designed for [local] consumption, like the statements that have begun to emerge with every operation carried out abroad recently.

The Followers of God group's statement was distributed in Sidon. This group is not known to have any strong or clear link with any fundamentalist organization loyal to Iran or known like Hizballah. The statement did not announce the Followers of God group's direct responsibility for the bombing at the Jewish Association center in Buenos Aires, which claimed some 50 lives, and the crash of a Panamanian plane, which resulted in the deaths of 21 people, most of them Jewish businessmen. It emphasized its blessing and support of both [incidents].

The statement said: "The faithful forces have formed suicide groups [majmu'at istishhadiyah] for the sake of recovering Islamic and Arab dignity. They have sworn to fight and confront Zionism everywhere. The Argentina and Panama operations are best proof of this confrontation, wherever Zionism exists." It added: "What happened in Argentina and Panama will not stop; it will continue wherever Zionism exists until it is destroyed, justice prevails in the world, and the Islamic Shari'ah is applied everywhere."

Immediately after the statement was issued Argentine President Carlos Menem stated that "a terrorist group" had claimed responsibility for the explosion that took place at the Argentine Jewish Association building in Buenos Aires. [passage omitted]

### Statement 'Probably a Forgery'

*MM2507104094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jul 94 p4*

[Unattributed report: "Lebanon Doubts and Investigates Group's Claim of Responsibility for Argentina Explosion"]

[Text] Beirut, Sidon, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Agencies—Responsible Lebanese security sources have cast doubt on the authenticity of the statement attributed to an organization not reported to have carried out any activity before now.

The Lebanese authorities, however, have instructed the Lebanese public security departments to investigate that group's claim of responsibility for blowing up the main Jewish community center in Buenos Aires where about 100 people were killed.

Lebanese security sources said yesterday that security forces in the port of Sidon (southern Lebanon) are looking for the Followers of God group which issued another statement late the day before yesterday [22 July] claiming responsibility for blowing up a Panamaian plane killing 21 people.

They added that this small group is led by Jamal Sulayman, a Palestinian fundamentalist officer who broke away from the Palestinian movement Fatah in 1991, but they said that they did not believe that Sulayman's followers had the ability or the know-how to carry out such bombing operations. They said that the statement was probably a forgery.

The same sources described the statement, which was published in Beirut yesterday, as being "ambiguous" and did not clearly claim responsibility for the attacks.

The statement said that "the faithful forces have formed suicide groups.... and have begun to work for the restoration of Palestinian and Arab dignity.... and have sworn to fight and confront Zionism everywhere. The Argentina and Panama operations are the best evidence of that."

### Sulayman Denies Statement

*MM2507104494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Jul 94 p 2*

[Unattributed report: "Jamal Sulayman Denies Knowledge of Followers of God Statement"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Security sources in the south have said that competent services have identified the quarters behind the written statement which was distributed in the Followers of God group's name to foreign news agencies in Sidon on Friday [22 July] regarding the bombing at the Jewish center in Buenos Aires. The sources told AL-HAYAH that there is no truth in what has been reported, namely that Jamal Sulayman, a Fatah dissident, was behind the statement distributed in the Followers of God group's name. He has told officials in the competent security services that he had nothing to do with the statement, and that the person who distributed it has no link with the Followers of God organization, which he set up in 1987 after breaking away from Fatah. The sources pointed out that Sulayman put security officials in the picture as regards the information available to him, which is likely to lead to identifying the person who distributed the statement. It is understood that security services are now in possession of information about the identity of this person and are currently pursuing him, and that they do not rule out that the statement is "suspicious" and that those who prepared it represent a case of Israeli infiltration. As is

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known, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, who has since last Thursday [21 July] moved to his home in Musaylah (Qada' al-Nabatiyah), has expressed marked interest in determining the quarter that espoused the statement carried by a foreign news agency. He stressed to his guests that it "is a suspect statement that aroused suspicion, and those who prepared it are working for Israel."

## Israel Shells, Rakes South; Retaliation Reported

### Warplanes Strike Villages

*NC2307055394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Tension and caution prevails in the central and western sectors of the south following Israeli attacks against several villages in these two areas.

A security report has indicated that the Israelis have raked with rockets and heavy machine guns the area of Majdal Zun in the Tyre district, causing fires in forests and crop fields. Al-Sawwan, Tulin, Majdal Silm, and Qabrikha also came under artillery and rocket fire. The occupation forces also shelled the heights of Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly Mlita, al-Luwayzah, Jabal Safi, and the outskirts of 'Arab Salim at the rate of one shell every two minutes.

Jabal al-Rafi' and (Jabal al-Shamas) in the area earlier came under intermittent Israeli artillery fire.

Israeli warplanes flew at low altitude over the villages of western al-Biqa' adjoining the occupied border strip.

The areas of Qilya, al-Dallafah, and the forests of al-Surayri and al-Qatranah came under artillery fire, and Jabal al-Dahr was raked with machine guns. The Zaghlah, 'Ayn Qinya, and Shwayya sector was raked in the morning.

### Resistance Attacks Positions

*NC2307094594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0907 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Resistance fighters at dawn today attacked three positions of the Israeli enemy and its agents in Hula, Tallust, and Bra'shit, using rockets and automatic weapons.

At about 0300 today the occupation forces in Bayt Yahun, al-Tayyibah, Tallusah, and al-Qantarah used 155-mm and 120-mm artillery to shell the villages of Bra'shit, Shaqra, Majdal Silm, Tulin, and Qabrikha. They also fired flares over the villages of Majdal Silm, Tulin, and the adjacent valleys.

At 0315 today enemy helicopters flew over Bra'shit, Hula, and Wadi al-Hujayr, raking the valleys with machine guns. No casualties have been reported but material damage was done.

### Further Israeli Shelling Reported

*NC2307163694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] At 1530 local time today, the Israeli occupation forces shelled the hills of Iqlim al-Tuffah. The shelling was concentrated on Luwayzah Hill which was targeted by many rockets from the area of al-Zaffatah. The Israeli occupation forces positioned in al-Zaffatah at 1300 today shelled the hills and heights of Iqlim al-Tuffah, in particular Mlita, Luwayzah, Jabal Safi, al-Jabal al- Rafi', al-Wadi al-Akhdar, and (Jabal al-Shamas) which is located between 'Arab Salim and the Sujud Hills. The shelling was accompanied by large-caliber machine-gun fire, which continued intermittently until 1320 local time.

### 'Guerrillas' Attack Security Zone

*NC2307202294 Paris AFP in English 1901 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, July 23 (AFP)—Shiite guerrillas of the pro-Syrian Amal group said they carried out three attacks on Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon Saturday [23 July].

Guerrillas fired mortars at one Israeli army position and two manned by the proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) on the edge of the western sector of the zone, security officials said. SLA radio said there were no casualties in the shelling.

Amal claimed responsibility for the attacks and said its fighters also exchanged fire with Israeli and SLA troops. Five villages near the zone were later shelled by the Israeli forces and their proxy militia, Lebanese police said.

Meanwhile, Qasim Rayhan, a 36-year-old Lebanese man, was taken away by Israeli soldiers at an improvised roadblock near Arnun on the edge of the zone, police said. He was travelling to al-Nabatiyah at the time.

Soldiers regularly enter Arnun, a village largely deserted by its inhabitants, and sometimes detain local residents.

### Israelis Capture Hizballah 'Spy'

*NC2407093494 Paris AFP in English 0810 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Jerusalem, July 24 (AFP)—A Lebanese man snatched by Israeli paratroopers was a pro-Iranian Hizballah activist and spy who took part in or coordinated attacks on Israel, military sources said Sunday [24 July].

Qasim Rayhan was captured Friday night just north of the "security zone" Israel occupies in southern Lebanon. The Israeli army announced only that Rayhan "assisted Hizballah in attacks against Israel."

The sources said he observed and reported movements of the Israelis and their South Lebanon Army militia, but was considered only a minor operative.

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Lebanese police said Rayhan, 36, had been taken from his car at a checkpoint Israeli troops had set up on the road to Arnun village, on the edge of the central sector of the buffer zone.

Reports from Lebanon said Israeli soldiers regularly enter the largely deserted village, and sometimes detain local residents. Some are released within hours, others after weeks or even years.

The abduction came after the Israeli Government accused Iran and Hizballah of the bombing of a Jewish charity in Buenos Aires which killed at least 46 people last Monday [18 July]. Both denied involvement in the blast.

A tiny Moslem fundamentalist group called Followers of God indirectly claimed responsibility for the bombing as well as for blowing up a plane over Panama on Tuesday killing 21 people, most of them Jewish businessmen. It said "suicide squads" had been formed to combat Zionism.

Israelis troops kidnapped noted Shiite leader Mustafa al-Dirani on May 21 from his stronghold in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' Valley in a bid to gain information about an Israeli aviator shot down over Lebanon in 1986.

### More Shelling, Overflights Reported

*NC2507055594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Jul 94*

[Text] Tension prevails in the liberated areas adjacent to the occupied border strip after continuing Israeli acts of aggression. Last night, the Israeli forces bombarded several areas and villages in the western and central sectors. The bombardment was accompanied by Israeli flights over al-Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah, and al-Zahrani. The warplanes staged mock raids at low altitude over these areas. The Lebanese Army ground defenses located in theses areas confronted the Israeli aircraft.

The Israeli forces also pounded villages along the coast south of Tyre. Israeli forces stationed in Tallat Shama', al-Hamra', and Tayr Harfa pounded the outskirts of Zibqin, Majdal Zun, and al- Mansuri with 82-mm mortar rounds.

### Israelis Increase Forces

*NC2507081494 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Jul 94*

[Text] Our military correspondent has stated that responsible military sources have told him that the Israeli Army has augmented its forces in the eastern and northern sectors of the border area after an increase in sabotage operations in the past two days. He noted that the same sources also told him that these forces will take action against saboteurs' centers in Iqlim al-Tuffah and western al-Biqa' to cut down on the subversive acts by saboteurs designed to hamper the peace process in the region.

### More Shelling, Retaliation Reported

*NC2507082894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Jul 94*

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces fired 60 rounds at the southern area of the al-Biqa' plain this morning. According to the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent, a number of 155-mm and 120-mm rounds fell in the al-Rayhan woods in the Jazzin area.

In retaliation for the Israeli aggression and concentrated bombardment of the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages, the resistance said that its fighters pounded the Israeli positions in Sujud and al-Rayhan, scoring direct hits. The Israeli shelling comes after a report by the radio of the militiamen cooperating with Israel [South Lebanese Army] on reinforcing the Israeli positions in the occupied border strip.

According to eyewitnesses, the forces that Israel has brought to the border strip in the past few hours are estimated to include 50 Merkava tanks and M-113 troops carriers, and 40 soldiers. These vehicles have been deployed in Sujud, al-Ghuzlan, the hills overlooking al-Nabatiyah, and the Kawkaba hills overlooking western al-Biqa'.

### IDF Detains Lebanese Citizen

*TA2307185294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit operating north of south Lebanon's security zone detained (Qasab Rayhan) for questioning. He is suspected of having aided Hizballah terrorists. (Rayhan) was captured north of Arnun in the central sector this morning. This was reported by the IDF spokesman.

### Socialist Party Rebuts 'Zionist' Charges

*MM2207155394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Jul 94 p 3*

[Unattributed report: "Junblatt Calls on Fadlallah and Nasrallah"]

[Excerpts] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] and minister for displaced people's affairs, accompanied by his political adviser, Ghazi al-'Uraydi, called on Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah and then Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah yesterday afternoon in the framework of the consultative meetings he is conducting with influential political and spiritual figures concerning the displaced people issue. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile the PSP Foreign Relations Bureau has issued the following statement: "Zionist circles tend to persist

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in making accusations every time one of its centers is exposed to an incident. It is important that we point out that world public opinion is now aware of the aims of the accusations so easily launched against Islamic forces linked in any way with the Islamic Republic of Iran, which hastened to clarify its position in a manner that cannot be changed or distorted. We do not need to remind world public opinion of the history of the Zionist gangs that have spread ruin, destruction, and blood in the world and have not hesitated to use the ugliest means of destruction and murder. What Lebanon and its people are subjected to at present is irrefutable evidence of the nature of this Zionist regime and the State of Israel, which was established and has been brought up in accordance with the logic of terror."

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## President Mubarak Arrives on Official Visit

### Received at Airport

*JN2407114894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus at 1230 today. President Hafiz al-Asad was among those receiving him at Damascus International Airport. He was also received by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah; Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Dr. 'Isa Darwish, Syria's ambassador in Cairo; and Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

After shaking hands with the deputy prime ministers, the ministers, and staff of the Egyptian embassy in Damascus, President Mubarak and President al-Asad moved to the VIP lounge where they reamined for a short period of time. President Hafiz al-Asad and his great guest then drove in a official motorcade to the People's Palace.

President Mubarak is accompanied by an official delegation grouping Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communication, and civil aviation; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Muhammad Mahmud, minister of economy and foreign trade; Muhammad Ibrahim Bayyumi, minister of industry; Zakariya 'Azmi, chief of the president's office; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Soon after their arrival at the People's Palace, the two presidents held an expanded meeting attended by the delegation accompanying President Mubarak and Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Information Minister Muhammad Salman, and Dr. 'Isa Darwish, Syria's ambassador in Cairo.

The expanded meeting was followed by a one-to-one meeting between the two presidents.

### Holds News Conference With al-Asad

*JN2407183594 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1737 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[News conference with President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak with unidentified correspondents in the VIP Lounge at Damascus International Airport on 24 July—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] President Husni Mubarak: How do you assess the results of your visit to Damascus and your meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad?

[Mubarak] As a matter of fact, my meetings with brother President Hafiz al-Asad are continuing for the purpose of consultation, because Egypt and Syria are in the same boat. Brother Hafiz al-Asad and I have very old relations. The same goes for Syria and Egypt, which have longstanding relations. We exchanged views about international and Arab issues, and then the Middle East issue and the question of peace with Israel. These are all the issues. Our bilateral ties are fine. From time to time they witness progress.

[Correspondent] Mr. President Hafiz al-Asad: The peace negotiations are now at a decisive juncture. Tomorrow, God willing, there will be a meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington in the presence of President Clinton. U.S. Secretary of State Christopher came to Damascus speaking with an optimistic tone. However, when he left Damascus, the picture was different. I wonder why.

[Al-Asad] First of all, I welcome you all, primarily, of course, my brother and colleague President Mubarak. As he has mentioned, our relations—whether on the personal level or the relations between the two countries—are very good and as they should always be. The issues we have discussed included some of the contents of your question. Of course, I cannot say.... [pauses] as a matter of fact I didn't hear Secretary Christopher and can not say whether his voice held a warm tone or not, as I understood from the question. He is on a mission, and he is making good efforts. Naturally, we cannot say that the peace process is facing a dead end or that the peace process is proceeding along an open road. There is continuing action and efforts are under way. We hope that we will reach good results and that all the parties can advance the peace process.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad: Can we say that the results of your talks with President Husni Mubarak today will create a better atmosphere for Christopher to make a successful tour in the future?

[Al-Asad] I believe that our cooperation is independent of any other thing. In other words, it stands by itself because of the nature of the two countries and the presidents of the two countries. We are two Arab countries and we maintain special ties and relations with or without peace. It is not peace which determines what is or will be between us. However, we hold discussions, as President Mubarak pointed out, on various issues. We exchange views, and we talk about the best, what is better, and what is bad. We talk about all matters. Of course, this means that we often reach some kind of perception of the problems with which we deal or discuss.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President al-Asad: Let me ask you a frank question. What is the acceptable Syrian formula for finding a kind of link between withdrawal and normalization?

[Al-Asad] In fact, we have not reached this stage. Contacts by the United States are still going on, including the meetings which Christopher is holding. All contacts

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always take place within the framework of the peace process and the Madrid conference. Therefore, the American sponsor moves in its capacity as one of the two sponsors. But, undoubtedly, it is the most effective sponsor. The peace process is still revolving within what we can call an exploratory framework, and we are sounding out each other's views. It is still too early to define the issue as requested by the question.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Mubarak: I would like to ask this question: What can Egypt offer to achieve the desired progress on the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Mubarak] Let us first know what Israel will offer. But Egypt....

[Correspondent, interrupting] I mean assistance or contribution to pushing....

[Mubarak, interrupting] We will assist with any problem if required to do so. Syria is an independent and sovereign state and its cadres can negotiate. As we have relations with Israel, Egypt will not refrain at all from extending help to Syria if that is necessary.

[Al-Asad] However, we have a certain atmosphere between us and we maintain a multidimensional cooperation in various areas, and the ties between the two countries are characterized by an important, great, basic, and historic contribution by Egypt.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad: Your excellency is well aware that the Egyptian people are extremely concerned, and sympathetic to the Syrian people. They feel that they and the Syrian people constitute one people. The Egyptian people are seeking reassurances as to when peace negotiations on the Syrian track will reach a successful conclusion, particularly since it has been said that 1994 will be the year of a comprehensive solution. Your excellency, do you believe that 1994 will produce a comprehensive settlement on the Syrian track? Or shall we have to wait for longer?

[Al-Asad] We are sure that the Egyptian people, our Arab people in Egypt, are sympathetic to us, and supportive of our stance. We look upon the Egyptian people just as we look upon our own people, the Syrian people. This has been the case in the past, it is the case at present, and so it will remain in the future. We do not have any doubts about this at all. We equate Syrian interests with Egyptian interests, and vice versa. From the outset, we have proceeded in the peace process on the basis of unambiguous rules and foundations. The negotiations have been going on. Nonetheless, the results achieved over the past few years of negotiations have failed to match the effort put into them, either by the Arab sides participating in the talks, or not participating in the talks—I mean here direct or indirect efforts—, by the cosponsor or cosponsors of the talks, or by other Western sides. The results achieved have not been commensurate with the time and effort invested in the talks, and with the number of those who have been involved in the whole exercise, as I have said. Hence, it is difficult to say whether or not there will be peace in 1994. Nonetheless, we seek peace, in accordance with our own perception, with the ideas we have repeatedly articulated. We are seeking a peace that would safeguard the dignity of all, and the rights of all; that is, a viable and lasting peace.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. President.

### Departs Damascus

*JN2407181494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held an expanded meeting at the People's Palace following President Mubarak's arrival in Damascus today. [passage omitted]

This meeting was followed by a closed meeting between the two presidents. The two meetings were interrupted by a working lunch hosted by the president. It was attended by members of the Syrian and Egyptian delegations who participated in the talks.

The talks dealt with a host of regional, Arab, and bilateral issues, and the peace process in the region.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Damascus at 1800 today. [passage omitted]

### Christopher Departs After Talks With al-Asad

*JN2207145894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Text] Damascus—His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the People's Palace at 1100 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Special Middle East Coordinator Dennis Ross.

During this meeting, they resumed their discussions and talks on the peace process, the issues raised during the two meetings they held on Tuesday [19 July], and new developments regarding them.

The talks focused on issues related to the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations. His excellency the president listened to the ideas Christopher carried. Driven by eagerness to achieve the objective of the peace process, his excellency the president expressed Syria's willingness to discuss moves that could help make progress toward that end. Christopher will return to the region shortly to continue his peace efforts.

Christopher and his wife left Damascus at 1530 today after a brief visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', several senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Christopher and his wife had arrived in Damascus at 1030 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He

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was welcomed on arrival at Damascus International Airport by Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, several senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

### Christopher To Return 'Early August'

*JN2307053494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Excerpt] Dublin—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday said he promised to return to the region once again in early August to give a new boost to the indirect Syrian-Israeli talks. He said the success of these talks will mean the removal of the most important stumbling block remaining on the path of the comprehensive peace in the region.

In statements to journalists on board his plane on the way back to Washington, Christopher said his one-week tour was fruitful and useful. However, he added, there are still many gaps between the two sides and one should not expect any exciting breakthroughs in the near future. [passage omitted]

### Radio Analyzes Christopher's Tour

*JN2407153094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1144 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Observers and political analysts have made various interpretations and reached different conclusions regarding the recent tour of the region by Warren Christopher. Some believe that Secretary of State Christopher's failure to make a statement prior to his departure from Damascus shows that the results he achieved did not match the optimism he expressed in Damascus in the aftermath of the talks he held with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on Tuesday [19 July].

However, one can effortlessly draw an important conclusion that Secretary of State Christopher hinted at without announcing to reporters. The statements he made in Damascus on Tuesday were highly optimistic. He did not conceal his total satisfaction, his sense of strength, as well as his realization that the talks were serious. He also sounded confident of the results they would produce. What we would like to say is that he has not made similar statements in Israel, not even in the aftermath of the talks he held with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

So, Secretary of State Christopher preferred to remain silent instead of announcing the truth, which has become an undeniable hard fact in the region; namely, that Israel has not thus far demonstrated any willingness to respond favorably to the peace process, nor to the efforts made by the U.S. administration to realize the international community's wishes regarding the achievement of just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region.

The recent tour of the region by Secretary of State Christopher was not the first, nor will it be the last, for that matter. Nonetheless, the following questions are posed: Does the implementation of the unequivocal UN resolutions, drafted by the entire world community, require differing interpretations, explanations, and maneuvers—something that has wasted the time and effort of a superpower that is expected to perform other international tasks? Why cannot this superpower expose Israel to the entire world public for its obstruction of peace efforts, and for its wagers on killing peace opportunities, and wasting time to force its own version of peace, which is meant to bring it peace and promote its expansionist policy at the same time? Moreover, does the issuance of a statement on withdrawal, or on a willingness to withdraw from the occupied territories and comply with the letter and spirit of the relevant international resolutions warrant all this time and effort?

Secretary of State Christopher has described the talks he has held in Damascus as substantive, serious, important, candid, and useful. He announced this to the entire world. By contrast, he has failed to characterize his Israel talks as such. This, by itself, is enough to hold Israel responsible for undermining, if not thwarting and killing, the peace process through the conclusion of limited bilateral agreements.

Syria, which has opened the doors wide for the peace process, will spare no effort or time to promote this process, and facilitate the achievement of its objectives. It is also willing to discuss moves that could help make progress toward that end. It has extended to Secretary of State Christopher, and to [former] Secretary of State Baker before him, all the facilities that could help achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region—the peace that would return all rights and territories to their rightful owners and ensure security and stability for all.

### Press Views Christopher Visit

*JN2407093494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Truth", AL-THAWRAH comments on Warren Christopher's visit to Damascus. In the two sessions the U.S. secretary had with President al-Asad in the earlier visit, the president emphasized to him that Syria was looking forward to a successful peace process, particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, along the lines that launched the exercise.

In the third session that took place during the most recent visit to Damascus by Christopher, al-Asad told him that, driven by a concern for a successful peace process, Syria was prepared to consider steps that might promote this goal.

This is a reiteration of Syria's good faith, whose credibility has been endorsed by the whole world, most of all

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the United States, which launched the peace initiative. The world is now convinced that Syria is dedicated to peace—a dedication that is based on a strategic vision compatible with national and pan-Arab parameters and the UN resolutions mandating full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and south Lebanon and all other occupied Arab territory.

Syria, whose leader has raised the slogan of the peace of the brave, is bound by what has been blessed by the international community and the sponsors of the peace process, namely, UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace formula. The Madrid formula is in line with Syria's peace intentions. Syria will never drop these priorities: the occupied territory must be vacated, Arab rights met, and aggression ended.

The paper said Christopher was impressed by Syria's seriousness in talking about the steps leading to peace. He also noted that his talks with his excellency the president were serious and substantive. In his telephone conversation with Mr. Clinton, al-Asad reiterated Syria's adherence to a just and comprehensive peace and its promotion along the lines of the Madrid conference. In the same conversation, the U.S. President said he and his administration were bound by an all-inclusive settlement and even-handed peace.

Syria, which stretches its hand with an open mind to the sincere intentions and relentless efforts of the sponsors of the peace process, will not acquiesce to the sort of peace settlement Israel is out to impose—an incomplete, distorted settlement that does not meet the requirements of international legitimacy or the spirit of the Madrid conference or the American initiative, concludes AL-THAWRAH.

AL-BA'TH, writing under the headline "Twinning Syrian and Lebanese Tracks in the Peace Process" writes that neither the daily acts of aggression on Lebanon nor the pressure Syria faces on various fronts have succeeded in softening up either of the two countries or undercutting in any way the twinning of the two tracks in the peace process. Full withdrawal from the occupied Golan as a precondition to bringing peace to the region counts no less than full Israeli pullout from south Lebanon, as demanded by UN Security Council Resolution 425. The same principle applies in the case of all occupied Arab territories. This fact, the paper said, has been and will remain one of the constants that have been a hallmark of Syria's policies since it embraced and committed itself to the peace initiative without making any distinction between this or that piece of Arab territory. Syria has pursued a just and comprehensive peace settlement based on UN resolutions; since the Madrid conference, it has underscored coordination and consultation among the Arab parties involved in the peace process. If Israel has managed to make inroads into some Arab tracks, it has found the Syrian and Lebanese tracks an impregnable dam, buttressed by a national and pan-Arab vision.

Within the framework of continual coordination and consultation, President al-Asad sent a letter to the Lebanese President, delivered by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', about the outcome of the American secretary's visit to Damascus. Al-Shar' disclosed that the al-Asad-Christopher talks addressed all aspects of the Lebanese track, proving Syria is as concerned about Lebanon's interests as it is about the interests of the Arab nation. Thus, when Christopher returns to the region he should focus on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, because they are inseparable; a fact that should not be lost on Israel, concludes AL-BA'TH.

TISHRIN writes that adherence to the peace process is one of Syria's constants. Syria is anxious to see peace come to the region based on the principles on which the peace process was launched. If the whole world has vouched for Syria's peaceful credentials, it now recognizes Syria's support for the political efforts to rescue the peace process and its full commitment to the building blocs of a just and comprehensive peace. Following his talks with the president, Christopher did not conceal his satisfaction with the Syrian position and Syria's responsiveness to U.S. efforts to rejuvenate the peace process. As Christopher left Syria, he observed that he felt stronger, having sensed real seriousness on the part of President al-Asad. Christopher's remark is an indication that Syria has never obstructed American and international efforts to make a just and comprehensive peace. Syria has always been and will remain true to its word.

In contrast to Israel, Syria continues to stick to the principles of the peace process. Israel refuses to vacate the Golan and south Lebanon, and here the responsibility of the international community, and especially the United States, comes into focus—to pursue and intensify efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

## NPF Leader: Peace Is 'Strategic Syrian Objective'

*JN2207163194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Excerpt] Under the patronage of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, the Arab Socialist Union [ASU] held a speech rally at the al-Hamra' Hall this morning to mark the ASU's 30th anniversary.

Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and deputy chairman of the National Progressive Front [NPF], deputized for His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on the occasion. The rally was attended by ASU Secretary General Safwan Qudsi, Social Affairs and Labor Minister 'Ali Khalil, the brother members of the ASU Political Bureau, and a large crowd of invitees.

The rally began by observing a one-minute silence for the souls of martyr Staff Major Basil al-Asad and other martyrs of the Arab nation. This was followed by the playing of the ASU anthem.

Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashiriqah delivered a speech on the occasion. He began by relaying the warm greetings

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of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, his heartfelt congratulations, and best wishes. Mashariqah added: The ASU came into being under the shadow of the 8 March revolution. It has been an avant-garde faction struggling to achieve pan-Arab objectives, as well as the national aspirations of the people's masses. It played its role in full and most effectively under the Corrective Movement and within the context of the NPF, to whose establishment your veteran party, the ASU, contributed by way of drawing up its charter and basic law.

Dr. Mashariqah went on to say: The NPF in Syria has been a pioneering experiment, and a great accomplishment scored by leader President Hafiz al-Asad in the aftermath of the inception of the blessed Corrective Movement. This experiment allowed Syria to overtake other Arab and foreign countries in terms of the political pluralism and multiparty system in force. For the NPF has brought together all national and progressive forces, and allowed them to make effective contributions to all walks of life, to all areas of construction, and also to the march of unity-orientated and liberation struggle in a climate of freedom and democracy that has become a basic feature of public life in Syria under Hafiz al-Asad. Syria's experiment within the context of the NPF has been vital and flexible. Time only serves to enrich and promote this experience.

Speaking about unity-orientated action, the vice president said: Syria was a major party to all the serious unity-orientated attempts made in the eighties and nineties of this century. Syria is not to blame if these attempts failed to realize the Arab nation's aspirations. Nonetheless, this will not drive us into desperation. For the people's masses will persist with their march toward unity under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad until the sun of unity emerges, and until its banners flutter throughout Arab territories from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf.

Dr. Mashariqah added: The Arab nation is currently witnessing the most serious phase in its contemporary history. Nations confronting fateful dangers tend to close ranks, mobilize their potentials, and marshal their resources to safeguard their existence and defend their rights. However, what we currently see on the Arab scene runs counter to the natural course of history and life. For the imminent dangers and threats posed to the nation are numerous. Likewise, the challenges facing the nation are ominous. All these factors should make the nation awaken from its slumber to address the dangers posed to its existence, and to the Arab homeland, as well.

Addressing the regional peace process, Dr. Mashariqah said: One of the issues currently facing the Arabs is the achievement of just and comprehensive peace in the region. The Arabs have championed the cause of peace to bring about a complete withdrawal from the territories the Israeli enemy occupied in June 1967, and ensure the restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights.

The vice president asserted that Syria has been at the forefront of the countries seeking to achieve just and comprehensive peace on the basis of international legitimacy. Although more than two and a half years have passed since the start of the peace talks, the Israelis have continued to maneuver and reject withdrawal to the pre-June 4, 1967 borders, thus stalemating the talks.

Dr. Mashariqah added: His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has repeatedly reiterated Syria's eagerness to render the peace process a success. Withdrawal from our occupied territories is central to the success of the peace process.

Concluding his speech, Dr. Mashariqah asserted that peace will remain a strategic Syrian objective. Similarly, Syria will continue to adhere to its principled constants. Syria cannot abandon a single inch of its national soil, nor can it give up any of its rights. It will continue its efforts until just and comprehensive peace is achieved in the Arab region. [passage omitted]

## Israel Said 'Must Confirm Willingness' To Withdraw

*JN2307083694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel's Complete Withdrawal Condition For Peace," today's TISHRIN discusses in an editorial the Middle East peace process, stressing Syria's belief in peace and its insistence on complete Israeli withdrawal from all of the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN says: The Syrian and Lebanese tracks were at the heart of President Hafiz al-Asad's talks yesterday with the U.S. secretary of state. Syria voiced a willingness to discuss moves that could help make progress, out of an eagerness to achieve the objective of the peace process, namely, a just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN calls on Israel to declare its readiness to withdraw from all of the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, stressing that there is no alternative to a positive Israeli response to the principles of the Madrid Conference, the UN Security Council resolutions, and the substance of the U.S. initiative.

The paper says : This has not been achieved yet. The Israeli prime minister is still talking about a withdrawal on the Golan Heights and the Israeli Army continues its air and ground bombardment of areas in south Lebanon in a clear message to Lebanon confirming that Israel insists that it does not want to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The paper says: As much as it believes in peace and seeks to ensure the success of the peace process, Syria adheres to its and the brothers' rights and insists on a complete, unambiguous, indisputable withdrawal from all of the

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Golan Heights and southern Lebanon and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 425, 338, and 224, which stipulate the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. This means Israel must confirm its willingness to make a complete and comprehensive withdrawal.

TISHRIN says Syria believes Israel's ceaseless intransigence and efforts to shun the resolutions of international legitimacy undermine the principles of the Madrid Conference and spread formulas of separate agreements and lame partial settlements that constitute a treacherous stab to the entire peace process and the objective of the just and comprehensive peace. Such settlements cannot lead to the desired peace, but are time bombs that might go off at any time, increasing tension and fueling conflict.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Peace has basic facts, particularly complete withdrawal and the acknowledgment of Arab rights. Otherwise, the peace efforts cannot achieve their objective as long as Israel continues to promote separate settlements and ignores the UN Security Council resolutions and what they stipulate in terms of a complete and comprehensive withdrawal.

## Foreign Minister Receives PLO Official Qaddumi

*JN2107162994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Jul 94*

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. The meeting was attended by Taha al-Khayrat, head of the Arab Homeland Department at the Foreign Ministry; Muhammad Jihad al-'Ammuri and al-Sharif Mash'al, members of Fatah Central Committee; and Mahmud al-Khalidi, the PLO's representative in Damascus. Talks dealt with the situation in the Palestinian arena and developments in the peace process.

## Al-Asad Confidant Appointed Air Force Commander

*MM2207150194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jul 94 pp1, 4*

[Unattributed report: "Al-Khuli Appointed Air Force Commander; Rif'at al-Asad Discharged from Syrian Army"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In the course of the Syrian Army's annual changes, routinely announced at the beginning of July, Brigadier General Rif'at al-Asad, the vice president, has been discharged from the Army.

It should be recalled that Brig. Gen. Rif'at al-Asad had kept his rank in the armed forces despite the fact that he had stayed away and had not assumed any military command position since giving up the command of the Defense Squads. It was also reported in recent months that he had given up all political interests.

A number of senior Army officers and commanders have also been pensioned off and then recalled as reservists and promoted one rank (in other words they kept their positions). They include Special Units Commander Major General 'Ali Haydar and 1st Division Commander Major General Ibrahim Safi. It has been the custom to pension off senior officers when they reach retirement age and then keep some of them on as necessary. That is what happened before with Major General 'Ali Duba, who was appointed deputy chief of staff for military security.

The new changes include the appointment of Major General Muhammad al-Khuli as Air Force commander. Maj. Gen. al-Khuli had held the post of Air Force chief of intelligence for several years. As known, al-Khuli is one of President Hafiz al-Asad's old colleagues and enjoys his trust.

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## Afghanistan

### Council Approves Formation of 100,000-Man Army

*LD2407185294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] In today's session of the High Islamic Council of Herat a draft proposal by the military commission was approved on the formation of a 100,000-man Armed Force.

A Bakhtar Information Agency [BIA] correspondent reports from Herat: In this session, a draft by the military commission on the formation of a 100,000-man force within the framework of the Islamic army was read out by Lieutenant General Alawodin. After a comprehensive discussion and hearing the views expressed by the participants of the session on the draft, it was approved.

Based on this draft, the 100,000-man Armed Force, which will be active under the framework of the Islamic army, will be formed from mojahedin ranks from all over the country. It will have the duty of clearing irresponsible elements from the supply routes and carrying out a general disarmament, in particular the disarmament of the militias.

The units of this force will be stationed in five regions, in the capital, the northeast, north, south, and southwest of the country, and it will be financed by the Defense Ministry.

It has been stated in the draft that the aforementioned force has the duty of safeguarding the territorial integrity and independence of the country, and will be given special military training and will enjoy special discipline. This force is free from any grouping, tribal, and local structure.

The BIA correspondent adds that in today's session in connection with the general disarmament process, esteemed Mohammad Esmael Khan, general amir of southwest region said: Experience has shown that whenever the ruling authorities of the country enjoy the trust of the people and each individual has confidence in his responsibility, then there is no need to keep arms. The governors should start themselves and collect the arms from their relevant provinces. Then, a general disarmament will be implemented and the new force will crush any type of resistance by any irresponsible individuals.

### Golboddin-Dostam Rocket Attacks Reportedly Kill 3

*LD2207192994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Text] The notorious Golboddin-Dostam militias attacked last night and today the residential areas of Kabul by firing rockets.

A source of Kabul garrison reported to the Bakhtar Information Agency that three defenseless citizens of Kabul were martyred and another three people were injured as a result of the rocket fire. A number of residences were also damaged.

### 7 Said Killed Over 24 Hours

*LD2407151994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1430 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Over the past 24 hours the infamous Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militia martyred seven Kabul residents by firing 36 rockets and mortar shells. The general command of the Kabul garrison told the Bakhtar Information Agency military correspondent that the Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militia fired 36 rockets and shells at residential areas and state and public utility installations yesterday and today. As a result, seven Kabul residents were martyred and 27 were injured. In addition, two houses were damaged during this savage attack by the militia.

### Saudi Envoy Says Aid to Kabul Stopped

*BK2407124994 Karachi DAWN in English 24 Jul 94 p 1*

[Report by Anjum Niaz]

[Text] Islamabad, July 23—The Saudi Ambassador to Afghanistan, Muhammad 'Ali al-Qutaybi, said here on Saturday [23 July] that Riyadh had stopped all material and military aid to Afghanistan after civil war broke out on January 1, 1994 in Kabul.

"We discontinued our assistance after the hostilities between the warring Afghan factions surfaced early this year," Ambassador al-Qutaybi told "Dawn" in an interview the first he has given to a Pakistani paper—before flying off to Riyadh in his special aircraft on Saturday.

Mr. al-Qutaybi, the man who brought back on Friday, the nine Pakistani and Chinese hostages—freeing them from Mulla Rocketi's clutches—has an army background and was working as the deputy to Prince Turki al-Faysal, head of the Saudi intelligence agency. Ambassador al-Qutaybi was accredited to Afghanistan last year.

Dressed in a most unusual travelling gear, the unsmiling ambassador let go of his icy reserve, when asked to explain why he was sporting this particular form of haute couture, comprising a traditional Arab gown, with a Pakistani waistcoat, and an Afghan Karakuli on the head.

Breaking into a smile, he said: "My wardrobe covers all the three countries: Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Afghanistan."

Strongly dispelling reports of Saudi Arabia helping President Rabbani and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in the Afghan war, Mr. al-Qu'aybi, fluently quoting verses from the Holy Koran in Arabic, cited the translated version. "Allah says do not take news at face value, instead verify

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it first. So, one must not believe the reports that say we are prolonging the Afghan war by helping one faction against the other," he said.

Forcefully projecting the conspiracy theory, the former deputy head of Saudi intelligence agency, General al-Qutaybi, was convinced that forces inimical to Islam and Muslim unity were causing misunderstanding between "brotherly countries."

Challenging the Saudi detractors to prove their allegations against Riyadh for playing favourites in Kabul, Ambassador al-Qutaybi said. "For us, all the leaders are the same and we deal with them equally," he added.

A firm believer of Pakistan plying a positive role in bringing peace to Afghanistan, the Saudi Ambassador categorically said: "Contrary to what you hear about Afghan resentment against Pakistan's interference in its affairs, Afghanistan will never break its good relations with your country."

## India

### Pakistani Agent Commits Suicide; Papers Recovered

*BK2407125594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] In Punjab, a Pakistani national working for ISI [Inter-Service Intelligence] committed suicide by swallowing cyanide when cornered by the police in a village in Ferozepore District yesterday. The official spokesman told our Chandigarh correspondent that the police was mopping up the area when the Pakistani national tried to escape from village Tibbi. Pakistani currency and some papers from an ISI official to a group of Punjab militants were recovered from his possession.

### Importance of Relations With PRC Emphasized

*BK2207125794 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 20 Jul 94 p 6*

[Editorial: "Indo-China Relationship"]

[Text] The Delhi visit of the Chinese foreign minister again emphasizes the fact that not only are the relations between India and China improving, but both countries are coming forward to play a leading role in Asian politics. After the much talked-about China trip of Rajiv Gandhi a long dialogue between the two countries has continued. It received a shot in the arm with Li Peng's visit to India and then Narasimha Rao's visit to China. All these forays and visits made the people of both the countries forget that there was a time when armies of both countries confronted each other, that they had a deep chasm of distrust and enmity in their hearts. Of course it would be a hasty assessment if we were to say that the olden days of Pancasila [five principles of coexistence] are back again and all is well with China. In the modern, logical world there is no room nor respect for that ridiculous sentimentality which prided itself in yelling Hindi-Chini (Indian and Chinese) or Hindi-Roosi (Russians) are brothers.

Some points raised in the Chinese foreign minister's statement are likely to bandied about in discussions. For instance, an agreement was reached between the two countries during Mr Rao's China visit for solving the border dispute that has presently created a semblance of peace at the border of the two countries. Even under these circumstances of peace and quiet, the armies of the two countries still stand facing each other. If this situation is referred to by the Chinese minister in his statement, it can unleash a plethora of discussions and debates. In other words, what is required is the gradual withdrawal of both the armies from the border. For this the Chinese foreign minister himself has suggested a modus operandi that the country that first stepped up to the border should withdraw her Army first. However, the question is who would accept who came first and how it could be proved who came first and when. We can only hope that the hard realities upon which both the countries are working would prevent this Chinese foreign minister's formula from becoming an obstacle instead of a remedy in thrashing out this problem.

Still, the Chinese stand on Sikkim's position is beyond comprehension. Despite Sikkim being an integral part of India, China has not yet recognized it as such. In the intervening period hope arose that China might shun this stubborn stand. However, the Chinese Foreign Minister's saying during his current visit to New Delhi that her country's policy-stand on Sikkim issue had nothing new added to it is tantamount to keeping the problem unresolved, meaning thereby that China still does not recognize Sikkim as an integral part of India. However, side by side with this stand China is also expressing the hope that this problem will be solved through a gradual process. Does it mean that in the coming negotiations, with the give and take offers, China still wants to utilize her stubborn stand on Sikkim to her advantage and use Sikkim issue as a pawn?

Maybe so, but amidst all these mutual problems the Chinese minister's reiteration about India and Pakistan's solving the Kashmir problem without any third party's intervention is a good lesson for Pakistan. Now almost the entire world is arriving at the consensus that Kashmir issue should be resolved through bilateral negotiations between India and Pakistan only. This will only take place if Pakistan heeds this universal voice of reason.

### Editorial Views PRC Arms Sales to Pakistan

*BK2507065094 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 20 Jul 94 p 8*

[Editorial: "Baggage From the Past"]

[Text] Long-festering conflicts of the kind which have plagued South Asia can best be resolved in the absence of

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third-party interference. But since the utility of the bilateral framework for the achievement of this objective has not yet been fully accepted in the region, the reiteration of its importance by the Chinese Vice- Premier and Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen, is welcome. This is so especially because close Sino-Pakistani relations were born of the two countries' common hostility towards India. Sino-Indian ties began to improve only after Beijing's perception of Indo-Soviet relations as being aimed against its interests changed. The big question now is whether Pakistan which has still shown no sign of evincing genuine interest in a dialogue with India will ever heed the Chinese plea.

A particularly dismal offshoot of this Pakistani stance was the cynicism with which it tried to misuse the Human Rights Commission in Geneva last April to reinforce its claim to Kashmir. It was China, which along with Iran, eventually dissuaded the Pakistanis from pressing the issue. This, of course, made no difference to the basic Pakistani aversion to a negotiated settlement over Kashmir. If anything, Benazir Bhutto seems to be determined to continue its propaganda war against India in the UN and, of course, from Pan- Islamic fora. It is time Beijing realised that one of the factors responsible for such belligerence has been Pakistan's access to foreign arms. Throughout the cold war era it depended upon the American weapons bonanza. It can no longer do so. This is why Islamabad is trying hard to entice China into stepping up its arms supplies to Pakistan.

This is something which cannot but cause grave disquiet in New Delhi. During his visit, Qian Qichen tried to remove Indian misgivings with the standard explanation that Chinese arms sales are "limited to the enhancement of the legitimate defence capabilities of independent, sovereign recipient states". The formulation looks harmless on paper. But what is the precise definition of "legitimate defence capabilities"? Arms transfers have, as a rule, been tricky transactions going far beyond purely commercial considerations. US arms supplies to Pakistan were, of course, non-commercial in nature and meant to serve the American anti-Soviet strategy. But the avowed American objective notwithstanding, the supplies did play a decisive part in putting a premium on Pakistan's confrontation against India, not to mention their use in its wars against this country in 1965 and 1971. In this backdrop, it should not be too difficult for Qian Qichen to understand India's concern over Chinese arms supplies to Pakistan despite the promise of a peaceful solution of the Sino- Indian border dispute. There is in fact a lurking contradiction between his stress on bilateralism as the key to South Asian problems and his stand on arms transfers. It is time that Beijing understood that full normalisation of bilateral relations with India will be made easier by discarding some of the baggage inherited from the cold war days.

### Patent Sought on Protein Enhancing Plant Gene

*BK2507061794 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Indian scientists have successfully isolated a unique gene which can dramatically improve the protein content in cereals and pulses. Encouraged by this, the Department of Biotechnology has applied for a worldwide gene patent.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Gayatri Chandrasekhar] Over 75 percent of the world population depends on cereals for sustenance. Professor Asish Datta and his team at the Center for Plant Molecular Biology of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, have decoded the sequence of a gene from the seed amaranthus plant. When transferred to cereals and pulses, this gene can dramatically improve their protein content. The new gene synthesizes higher percentage of several essential amino acids—the building blocks of protein. The figures are far higher than the minimum WHO standard. The gene expresses its protein synthesizing qualities only in the seed and in no other part of the plant. Professor Datta is currently working on plants such as rice, (chitti), potato, and carrot so that a new breed of transgenic plants with better nutritional qualities will emerge. This work is expected to be complete in four to six years.

How can we be sure that the (?sizable) characteristics don't disappear in a few generations?

[Datta] You know that if the gene transfer technique works, this particular change will be part of the plant chromosome. So it will replicate with the rest of the genes which are present in the plant. It will replicate, it will transcribe, it will make protein. That is what we call this stably integrated phenomena. If it works, then it will continue generations after generations. So that is the experiment, that is the challenge what we have do to.

[Chandrasekhar] A worldwide patent will give economic benefit to India from this pioneering work. This is the first Indian patent application before a U.S. patent office for a genetically engineered product. [end recording]

## Iran

### Khamene'i Says Nation Not To Change Policies

*LD2307165194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] In a meeting this morning with the foreign minister, deputy foreign ministers, and directors-general from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic staff representing the Islamic Republic of Iran in various countries throughout the world, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution, delivered words of guidance; rejected any possibility of change in the principles, bases, and beliefs of the Islamic system; and stressed the importance of finding ways of making the greatest possible impact on international issues by means of presenting the splendors of an Islamic system to the world.

In the meeting, which took place on the opening day of a seminar held by the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomatic staff, the eminent leader stressed the importance of political and diplomatic activity in the arena of international links and said: Regulating the Islamic regime's relations with the rest of the world is the

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responsibility of the diplomatic machinery and the entire foreign policy complex and, on this basis, Iran's diplomatic representatives play a fundamental and important role and they must carry out their duties to the greatest possible extent as an instrument serving to convey the values governing the Islamic system of Iran.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i spoke of the essential and fundamental differences between the Islamic system and the other systems existing throughout the world and said: Acting as the frontline representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran's contact and impact with the rest of the world, our diplomatic staff must seek out the fundamental and basic differences between the Islamic system and other systems and, after careful study and assessment, strive to acquaint the world to the greatest possible extent with the splendors and prominent features of the Islamic system.

In his speech, the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution rejected the possibility that the Islamic Republic of Iran would deviate from its principles and values in any way and said: Violating its bases and values is out of the question for the Islamic system, because the realization of the essence and meaning of this system involved a great miracle and a great divine resource, that is, his eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to paradise, gave his life to bring about this popular and divine system.

### Turkey's Demirel Arrives on Visit

*LD2507112494 Tehran IRNA in English 1056 GMT 25 Jul 94*

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA—Turkish President Suleyman Demirel arrived here Monday [25 July] heading a high ranking politico-economic delegation and was officially greeted at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Demirel is accompanied by the Turkish minister of state for economic affairs, deputy foreign minister, a number of parliament deputies, private sector representatives and reporters during his three-day visit. Informed political sources consider the visit to be important and a turning point in consolidation of Tehran-Ankara bilateral ties.

Talking to IRNA in Ankara before his departure for Tehran, Demirel described Iran as his second home and referred to the Iranian people as "our friends and brothers."

Issues of mutual interest, developments in northern Iraq, the situation in the Balkans, issues concerning the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) from the viewpoint of Iran and Turkey as two main founders of the organization are said to be major topics to be discussed by the Iranian and Turkish presidents during their meeting.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel told reporters here at Mehrabad Airport that Iran and Turkey are two "friendly and brotherly" neighbors who have an important role in maintaining regional peace and stability. Demirel said that in his visit he would hold talks with the Iranian officials on Tehran-Ankara bilateral relations, issues concerning the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) as well as regional and global events.

He regretted that certain groups were trying to mar bilateral relations, but Iranian and Turkish officials were for continuation of their relations in the best possible manner to serve mutual interest.

Meanwhile, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani who was at the airport, told reporters that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey at present enjoyed the best conditions for expansion of their relations. He said that bilateral cooperation had entered into a new stage following the collapse of the former Soviet Union.

### Transport Accord Reached With Turkey

*LD2307135794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] From now on, Iranian buses traveling inside Turkey will only use the international green insurance card.

In an interview this morning with our correspondent, Roads and Transport Minister Torkan said: Under a memorandum of understanding signed between Iran and Turkey on expanding cooperation in road and railway transport, from now on Turkish trucks in Iran will use the Pol road and Iranian trucks in Turkey will travel on the Amasiya road.

He added: The memorandum of understanding also covers an agreement on the construction of a passenger road terminal on the border through joint investment. Taking into account the current Turkish railway tariffs, it was also decided to use a common rate already agreed by Iran, Bulgaria, and Turkey, which is a quarter of the current tariffs, for further use of railways for haulage.

On the linking of Iran and Turkey's highways, he said: It has been agreed that the Qazvin, Zanjan, and Tabriz highways will soon be constructed.

### Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Ties With Turkey, Problems

*NC2507135894 Istanbul SABAH in Turkish 22 Jul 94 p 13*

["Text" of an "exclusive" interview with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani by SABAH columnist Mehmet Ali Birand in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] Tehran—[Birand] Can you please comment on the concrete result you expect from your talks with President Suleyman Demirel?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We will examine the decisions we have made and the policy we have maintained on various issues. We will strengthen our relations again.

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We will hold talks on the Economic Cooperation Organization, Iraq, and issues relating to regional security and the economy.

[Birand] What is Turkey to Iran? How does Tehran consider Turkey? Is there a mutual lack of confidence between the two sides?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There is no longer any lack of confidence between Iran and Turkey. But secret forces always obstruct the realization of the decisions the two countries make.

[Birand] Do you mean the era of lack of confidence has been removed and a new chapter has been opened between the two countries?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have better understood each other during the past few years. There is no longer any lack of confidence. An atmosphere of confidence is shared between the two sides. We have made progress in that direction. We hold talks with the esteemed Demirel in a friendly and fraternal atmosphere. We feel the warmth of that atmosphere. The two countries know their interests better than any other country. But secret forces obstruct the joint decisions we make, which made us feel uneasy.

[Birand] There is a high-level bilateral agreement on security cooperation. But several PKK [Kurdish Workers Party] terrorists infiltrated Turkey from Iran and killed several troops a few days ago. Within that framework it has been reported that a lack of confidence remains further down the administrations of the two sides. Do you agree with that?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I have not been informed of the incident you mention. But similar incidents may occur on either side. For example, we know that there are various groups that are opposed to our revolution in Turkey. They use Turkey's territory to launch attacks on our security forces. We should warn the security officials and see to it that they fully realize all the joint decisions the two sides have made on the issue. The pertinent officials must be held responsible and those who fail to fulfill their duties must be penalized.

[Birand] Can you say that Iran will closely cooperate with Turkey against the PKK's terrorist activities, no matter what may happen?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Maintaining security in the region is important for the two countries. Maintaining security is in both their interests. From Iran's point of view, security in Turkey is important. But it must be mutual. Turkey must obstruct the activities of the bandit groups on its territory that are opposed to Iran's revolution. Iran will cooperate with Turkey as much as Turkey cooperates with Iran on issues relating to security. Iran will move in that direction as much as Turkey does.

[Birand] Do you mean to say that Turkey has failed to fulfill your expectations on security issues and that it has not done what it should do? What do you expect Turkey to do?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is moving in the right direction. But it has not yet reached the required point. We expect the following: Neither Iran nor Turkey should allow their territory to be used against each other. They must obstruct any development that could threaten regional security.

[Birand] Is Iran ready to move as completely against the PKK's terrorist activities as Turkey wants it to?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We are as ready as Turkey is prepared to move with us.

[Birand] Do you believe that an independent Kurdish state can be established in the region?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We share the same view with Turkey and Syria on the issue. Iraq's territorial integrity must be maintained. It must not be fragmented. Of course some privileges must be given to the Kurds to allow them to live in security and peace and see that they are not subjected to discrimination.

[Birand] Do you believe an independent Kurdish state can be established in the region? How would Iran react to such a possibility?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We are categorically opposed to that. Establishing an independent Kurdish state is very difficult. Establishing a Kurdish state on the territory of Turkey, Iran, Syria, and Iraq is impossible. The Kurds will take no action toward independence if they are treated well and given particular privileges. They will take no action toward independence if an atmosphere of security is established for them.

[Birand] You have not said a Kurdish state cannot be established. What would Iran do if an initiative is taken in that direction?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I cannot speak for other countries. The issue concerns Iraq's internal affairs. But we do not agree with the establishment of such a state. Nevertheless we do not wish to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs.

[Birand] Do you mean to say that Iran will adopt a negative approach?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We object to the fragmentation of Iraq.

[Birand] Turkey and Iran vigorously competed with each other on issues relating to the Caucasus and Central Asia. You tried to strengthen your influence over the two regions. But the competitive struggle has given way to an era of cooperation between Turkey and Iran during the past few months. Why is that so? Have you decided to cooperate with Turkey because you have been unsuccessful? Have you not achieved your objective?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The competition has not ended. It still exists. That is very natural. No unfavorable competition must be allowed to exist between the two sides.

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Regardless of the competition, we must cooperate. We stand to gain if we achieve that. We could have had more influence on the former Soviet republics. We have greater potential. But we have failed to establish the level of cooperation that would comply with our potential.

[Birand] Various countries tried to have Iran isolated. Former President Turgut Ozal always advised against that approach. Does Turkey still maintain that policy?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We are satisfied with Turkey's approach. Turkey is a relatively good partner [ortak].

[Birand] Can you comment on Iran's reaction to the success the Prosperity Party achieved in the elections in Turkey?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We do not wish to interfere in your country's internal affairs. But we welcome the success achieved by the Islamic peoples. That issue concerns your internal affairs. We will cooperate with those who are elected by the Turkish people.

[Birand] What political party do you prefer to see in power in Turkey? Do you prefer the Prosperity Party, the Motherland Party, the True Path Party, or the Social Democratic People's Party?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I would be interfering in your internal affairs if I answer that question. So it is better that I do not.

[Birand] Would Turkey and Iran establish closer relations if the Prosperity Party came to power in Turkey?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We must wait and see. But our relations with Turkey are very favorable right now.

[Birand] Does Iran have a Kurdish problem?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It cannot be said that we do not have a Kurdish problem. But it can be solved. The government controls the situation in the areas where the Kurds live. We have solved the problem of security. Most Kurds support the government. For example, Kurds seek refuge in Iran whenever they are confronted with a difficult situation in Iraq. We accommodated 1.5 million Kurdish refugees in our territory in the past. We continue to protect the Kurdish refugees from Iraq in various camps in Iran.

[Birand] How have you solved the Kurdish problem? I am sure you can inform Turkey of your experience?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We solved that problem through affection and Islam's strength. Religion helped us because the Kurds are an Islamic people. We were also helped by the revolution guards and volunteers who supported the revolution.

[Birand] But you used a large military force against the Kurds to place the problem under control in the eighties.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] A very serious clash took place. We used force to solve that problem. But you should not say we used a very large force. The force we used was large enough to deal with the situation. We obstructed them [the Kurds] from taking the wrong direction. The important thing is that we achieved success by taking services to the Kurds, treating them well, and making them happy. The Kurds supported us during the war with Iraq, which lasted eight years. The Kurds are a free people now. They have representatives in parliament. Their representatives in the mosques are very active.

### Hashemi-Rafsanjani Expresses Optimism About Society

*LD2307144294 Tehran IRNA in English 1432 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Saturday expressed optimism about the future of Iranian society and said Iran has a dynamic and developing society compared to many other countries.

He said that the success of Iranian students participating in several scientific olympiads in leaving behind their rivals from industrialized countries indicated their high level of knowledge and talents.

The values and criteria of the world are different from those of Iran because young people in Iran, being brought up in an Islamic and revolutionary environment, are considered precious assets which can hardly be separated from their values, he said.

The president was addressing a meeting of the Education Ministry officials from throughout the country.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani also thanked officials of the Education Ministry and Iranian universities for the achievements of Iranian students at this year's computer, physics and mathematics olympiads.

### Yazdi on Law Enforcement, Bombing Accusation

*LD2207174794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1057 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, at Tehran University on 22 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] There are a number of domestic and one or two foreign issues to which I will refer. The first is Law Enforcement Force [LEF] week. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader, in his comprehensive speech about the LEF made a remark that I should explain somewhat, saying that the Islamic government should maintain security with authority. What does authority mean? If you define it simply, it means relying on arms and only using arms. Others may define it differently.

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The issue is about Islamic government, part of the responsibility for which is held by the LEF. And the LEF cannot act alone concerning the portion of security which is in its charge. It has to cooperate with the other security forces and judicial forces. It can succeed only through joint effort. In many tasks, secrecy, confidentiality, and precise action are very important. They play a role in maintaining authority and succeeding. [passage omitted]

This authority mainly relies on the people. By relying on the people, by trusting the people, with the people's cooperation, with the people's sympathy a relationship evolves between the people and the security, the law enforcement and the judicial apparatus, as a result of which combination success is achieved, which one should really say is a sign of the authority of the government.

There were some incidents recently that have been topical and of which we are all aware. The murderers of a number of honorable priests were arrested and those who had planned to carry out bombings were arrested, to which I will later refer. It is not a simple, run-of-the-mill matter. It is a matter of authority, but it has been achieved with the cooperation of the various sectors. [passage omitted]

Concerning the issue of cooperation between the forces, I will refer to two matters. One, which was partly reported by the media, was about the incident in Susangerd [Khuzestan Province]. Two youths obtained a weapon and went to a crowd and sprayed the people with bullets. Nineteen people were killed on the spot and many were wounded. And then, acting on previously made plans, they made ready to leave the country.

Thanks to the necessary cooperation, the LEF arrested them before crossing the border, while crossing the border [as heard] in less than 48 hours. Judicial officials were present at the scene right at the start. They made the necessary recommendations and took the necessary legal measures. I am particularly pleased with the provincial official for saying that at that time they were not in a condition to need special orders. In the past, there sometimes used to be a need for some special orders, but now, I promise you that with or without such orders the action and the outcome would have been exactly the same. This was indeed the case, where in the course of about 10 days, all legal requirements—such as investigations and interrogations—were conducted with strict adherence to all court regulations. If the enemies still want to criticize, they are welcome to come and see the file on the case. Then they would not say that our trials are outside international standards. They can come and see for themselves. [passage omitted]

Another strange case was when we were informed that a number of businessmen—whose names can be mentioned—who were based in Shiraz, Bushehr, and Tehran, had established connections with some foreign currency departments of Bank Melli and were trying to use foreign currency facilities without having the necessary credit, thereby plundering public funds. There were huge sums of money involved. We naturally entered the scene and all the necessary coordinations were made. But the gentlemen involved realized and started to sell their houses, cars, and whatever they had bought in Tehran, and deposited the money generated in bank accounts. Here of course, we had to use special orders. The judge's report explained that if even these people had reduced their bank accounts to zero to pay back the money, the offense of taking money away from public funds would still remain. However, with all their efforts and putting the money generated by selling so many things back into public funds ...[pauses] Of course, the sum involved was not very much, but for a few businessmen who form a gang with a couple of banks and set out to plunder public funds, the sum was quite large. After returning so much money, they still owed $1,232,925 to the bank alone. The sums confiscated, on the other hand, amounted to nearly $1 million. The remaining money adds up to approximately $500,000. All these sums were in dollars.

Well there are many similar things in the country. When I say many in this case I mean... [pauses] There are such things. We see to these things. We deal with them, but then they ask why it is a certain way. Fortunately, as I have said many times, all the senior officials of the country have called for firm, speedy, and strong confrontation. Naturally there might be a case in a bank or in some department, which should not be named as not to dishonor them. I have two or three cases and examples in mind. Well, these things happen. Some of these people—even those more senior—have been arrested. There is no difference. All people are the same in the eye of the law. The law is for all. The strength of the Islamic Government lies in similar treatment of the deputy minister, the department head, the experienced bank official and the established merchant. There is no difference. When an Islamic government realizes a wrongdoing it deals with it. It does not matter who is involved. [audience chants approval]

There is a point that I should make on the side because one should not speak repeatedly of these matters from this tribune. Now that a number of judges have been suspended and are being investigated, there should be no creation of adverse atmosphere about it. I have personally taken charge and have given suspension orders to the disciplinary public prosecutor's office. The judge has been suspended and the case is under investigation. What he has done will become clear. Regarding judges, I should say that their community is honorable, pious, hardworking, and trusty although there might be one or two people among them who might do something to dishonor the rest. Definitively, there should be frank and firm confrontation with them to uphold the honor of the rest. There was a case, on a particular level, and it was unacceptable. I personally took charge. There was more information. Suspension was ordered, but he objected. I said: Let the case develop and I will speak with you later. Later I told him privately: This is the case. Do you think

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it should be investigated? He then expressed satisfaction that the case was under investigation. The final judgement was given recently and some of the honorable gentlemen helped in the case. Of course I am not at liberty to reveal the details. It is the same with the current case and other cases. I thank our colleagues in law enforcement, in security, and in the judiciary. Strength lies in cooperation and trust in the people—and people's trust in the establishment. There have been many times when an individual came to me or someone else, but said his name should not be mentioned. He is right when he says that his papers or letters should not be made public; he is right. Our system is such that the letter is circulated, and this could cause problems for the individual. This should be noted. He rips away the letterhead and the signature but hands in the document to us for investigation. What better source is there than this? This is the source of public trust. It is the greatest source. Public trust and interest must be kept. Dear brothers, honorable sisters, Muslim nation of Iran, the strength enjoyed by the Islamic government inside the country and position held on the international level rest on union, cooperation, trust, unity, and friendship. This must be maintained in totality. Fortunately we are all interested and we will maintain it.

The second issue is that a bomb exploded at a Jewish community center in Argentina. They said Iranians did it. They then saw that adequate evidence could not be found and said that Lebanon did it. I do not know who they are going to blame if they cannot find anything there either.

His eminence the leader in his speech gave a comprehensive and precise reply to those accusations. I wish to add one thing, which has been mentioned many times before, that definitely one day the world will come to feel the need for an international penal court [dadgah-e beinolmelali-ye keyfari], not like the one that exists in The Hague today. If one day such a court is established, such remarks and actions can be prosecuted. It is not so simple to question the dignity of a country, make accusations, and place blame. When an explosion takes place somewhere, the gentleman opens his mouth and says that it was the Islamic Republic who did it, without investigation and before the shape of the incident is clear. Before the magnitude of the incident is assessed, the country says that it was the Islamic Republic of Iran who did it. That is accusation and slander. It is legally accountable and could be prosecuted. Indeed if there was an international court such acts could be prosecuted. Why do you bring the dignity of a country into question? Very well, if you have evidence, then please let it be known. If you have reasons then please let them be known. That makes no difference to you. You say it was Lebanon. If you have evidence, then mention it. Do not let it be like the other case that I mentioned here two or three weeks ago [asking Britain to show evidence of Iran's military support for the IRA], that is to accuse Iran without any evidence. I, as the official responsible for the country's judicial system, told you then that if you have any evidence then give it to us. We will follow it up ourselves. Why did that European government not provide any formal or informal evidence? Just making remarks does not lead us anywhere. If we say that it was the Monafeqin [hypocrites—reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq] who were involved, then we immediately show the hypocrite who did it. We also provide the background to the hypocrite who did it and invite all people to come and see the evidence. We also invite the world to come and see. We show the place where the incident and deaths took place. We broadcast the words of the murderer and his or her hypocritical background. We do not accuse anyone. The principle issue that his eminence the leader mentioned, that we do not need to resort to terrorism is a basic principled argument. The Islamic Republic system does not need to resort to such acts. You just come and accuse Iran and say certain things. If we blame the hypocrites, then we also provide reasons for it and show real evidence. Now we also say that if anyone doubts Iran's words, they can come and see and prepare reports. We will show them every detail.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is basically against terrorism; it is against murder. It is against such methods and sees no need to resort to such methods. It enjoys tremendous authority in its logic, reason, global position, and other areas. It does not need to resort to such acts. I should not speak more on this. His eminence mentioned enough about it.

One of the famous Egyptian writers and analysts, who is known by almost everyone, Mr. Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal, in a meeting where Cairo-Tehran relations were being analyzed, made a statement that relates to the same discussion. He said that during the 1980's Cairo was used by the West and groups affiliated to the West as a base against the Islamic Republic of Iran, even those groups that intended to topple the Islamic Republic of Iran. Here is a recognized, renowned Egyptian person interpreting Cairo in the 1980's. Now it is 1994. In those 13 years Cairo has been the base for activities against the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the hands of the West—that is his interpretation—and its affiliated groups, even those groups that intended to topple the government. What does that mean? He then concluded that when it was said that Iran supported terrorism in Egypt that they found no proof of that. Well, he is a fair person and he made a true statement. Well, if you want to blame, then offer proof. He said: We have not found any proof. That claim has been made but there are no documents to prove it.

In Yemen approximately 300 of the respected religious scholars have issued a statement in which they have called on the authorities to reform the law according to Islamic principles, especially the penal code. We support the unity of Yemen; that is, the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance is to support Yemen and the need for the resolution of disputes through discussion and negotiations, as well as the proposal offered by those prominent religious scholars.

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There has been a conference in Jeddah by the Islamic Conference Organization and supported by UNICEF. The debate was on children's rights. Naturally the Palestinian, Lebanese, Herzegovinian, Afghan children, and children from some other places have been referred to and a series of discussions have been carried out. There is no time to talk about the final result of that conference now but, briefly, children's rights are part of human rights. In Islam more than anywhere else attention has been paid to those rights. [passage omitted]

The imposed division of the Islamic land of Bosnia and the recent event of the Serbs' refusal, and, naturally, the remarks by the Bosnian president that we should now watch and see what the world will do after this stage—whether it will provoke once more, through the constraints they put on the Muslims, so that a new war occurs and the flames of war advance against the Muslims again or whether they are ready to make a statement against the Serbs. [sentence as heard]

Concerning the attacks by Palestinians against south Lebanon, clashes in Gaza itself, about which all of you have heard in the news bulletins, let me make some remarks and end my statements. First, the Palestinian brethren and various Palestinian organizations should pay attention to the fact that the enemy is after creating an internal war. Avoid an eventual internal war. That is what the enemy wants and has pursued everywhere. The method and the prelude are moving toward that.

Second, we reiterate that the land of Palestine belongs to the Palestinians, and as long as this land has not been returned to its original owners such events will continue in that part of the world. [Crowd chants: God is Great, Khamene'i is the leader, death to the anti-revolutionary, death to America, death to the hypocrites, death to Israel!]

### Death of Ayatollah Kho'i's Son in Iraq Questioned

*LD2207130394 Tehran IRNA in English 1217 GMT 22 Jul 94*

[Text] Tehran, July 22, IRNA—Sayyid 'Abd-al-Sahib Kho'i, the eldest son of the late Grand Ayatollah Kho'i, announced here today that his brother Sayyid Muhammad Taqiy Kho'i was killed in a "bogus accident" in Iraq. Sayyid Muhammad Taqiy Kho'i is the second son of the late Grand Ayatollah Kho'i considered as one of the most learned grand ayatollahs of the twentieth century.

In a press release given to IRNA this afternoon, Sayyid 'Abd-al-Sahib Kho'i declared, "According to the confirmed reports from al-Najaf, Iraq, it was with regret that we found out that at 11:00 o'clock last night (Thursday night) Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Sayyid Muhammad Taqiy Kho'i, the son of the late Grand Ayatollah Kho'i, along with Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid Muhammad Amin Khalkhali, the son of Ayatollah Sayyid Riza Khalkhali and their driver were martyred as a result of a fake accident in which a truck hit them from behind. They were all returning from a visit to the shrine of Hazrat Seyyedoshohada."

Seyyedoshohada, the master of the martyrs, is the title of Imam Husayn (a.s.), the third imam of the prophet's blessed household, his shrine is in Karbala', Iraq.

One of the relatives of the Sayyid 'Abd-al-Sahib Kho'i said that in the past the Iraqi regime had staged similar accidents in order to assassinate members of Iraqi opposition. He said he had no doubt that the accident was staged because as a rule trucks are not allowed on the highway from Karbala' to al-Najaf. He said that the witnesses of the accident have also testified that the accident was staged.

### Iraqi Charge Summoned

*LD2307213394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Following the incident that led to the death of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Taqi Kho'i, the son of the late grand Ayatollah Kho'i, God's mercy be upon him, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Amin Khalkhali and his seven-year-old child as they were returning from a pilgrimage to Karbala on Saturday evening, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Tehran to convey to him, in an official note, the grave anxiety of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government and of the Muslim nation of Iran over the difficult conditions endured by the nationals of the Islamic Republic of Iran living in Iraq.

In the meeting, Mr. Mohatashami, the Foreign Ministry's deputy director-general for consular affairs, referred to the tragic incident and asked that the Iraqi Government give a response noting how the incident occurred and why the relatives were not allowed to take part in the burial ceremony. He also asked that legal steps be taken to pursue and punish the perpetrator or perpetrators of the crime.

The Iraqi charge d'affaires, for his part, expressed regret about the incident and said that he would convey the Islamic Republic of Iran's anxiety and request to his government and that he would keep the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry informed about the results.

### Armenian Minister Urges Continued Peace Efforts

*LD2307173694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan spoke to Foreign Minister Velayati on the telephone this afternoon and called for the continuation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's previous efforts to resolve the Karabakh dispute.

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In reply, Mr. Velayati expressed satisfaction about the efforts that have been made and stressed the importance of continuing the talks. He also expressed the hope that the Karabakh dispute would be resolved through negotiation.

### Foreign Ministry Urges Action Against Serbs

*LD2307200594 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jul 94*

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has stated once again that the only way in which the rights of the wronged people of Bosnia-Herzegovina can be restored is through united international support for that country's government and people; the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia; and the imposition of economic sanctions on the aggressors.

Announcing this information today, a spokesman from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: If diplomatic talks fail to repel the aggression, every nation and international organization must do everything it can to defend the just rights of the government and Muslim people of Bosnia.

The spokesman described the consent of the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the peace plan proposed by the international contact group as a demonstration of the government and nation of Bosnia's will to establish peace and calm in the region. He added: The past behavior of the aggressors in Bosnia reveals that the only method that is effective with them is force.

The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that any further compromise and leniency towards the aggressor will deepen the roots of aggression and conflict in the sensitive region of the Balkans.

### 'Undue Pressure' on Refugees Warned Against

*LD2407123994 Tehran IRNA in English 1137 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—The English daily "KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" editorialized here Sunday [24 July] on the recent announcement of Khorasan Province's governor-general who had proclaimed that from 23 July, the eastern border towns of Tayyebat and Torbat-e-Jam would be off limits to Afghans.

Commenting that the advantage of seeing future opportunities in Afghanistan were clearly superior to the methodology implied in the recent Tayyebat-Torbat-e-Jam pronouncement, the paper wrote that "such measures will only serve to create bad feelings and strain communication on both sides of the border."

On the other hand, the editorial said, Khorasan Province would be the first beneficiary of a smooth repatriation.

It noted that "after 15 years of impeccable treatment of the Afghans, now is simply not the time to resort to undue pressure which will only sully Iran's tremendous record in this respect. As for the argument that the Afghans are distorting the dynamics of the domestic economy, one outstanding and internationally reputed Iranian political economist notes that to consider a source of inexpensive foreign labor as a burden, has time and again been proven to be a fallacious argument."

Since the Afghans had been so generously hosted in the Islamic Republic and since this long episode was coming to an end, simple logic dictates that a resort to arbitrary methods to move them back across the border was out of place, it said.

"Today, the governments of Iran, Afghanistan and international agencies, in particular the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, are all in full agreement that the permanent settlement of the 1.9m Afghans in Iran, is simply not a durable solution to their problems. All three parties are of one mind that a voluntary and secure return to Afghanistan is a must in restoring equilibrium to that country."

The KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL editorial concluded by writing that "we can only beseech Governor-General Mofidi to slow down in his efforts to move the Afghans back across the border."

### Opposition Urges United Struggle Against Regime

*NC2207134094 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 21 Jul 94*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Since its outset, the Islamic rule has resorted to two methods in a bid to stabilize its shaky bases and to impose its antipopular rule: suppression on the one hand, and demagogy, dissension, hypocrisy, and plotting in their various forms and colors on the other. Naturally, these two methods are not used only in Kordestan but throughout Iran with the objective of imposing the rule of the clergymen and of implementing retrogressive policies. However, both methods are implemented more intensely in Kordestan because of specific reasons.

The Kurdish people in Kordestan want democracy for Iran and the fulfillment of national rights in the form of autonomy. These desires do not conform with the outlook of the clerical dictatorship in any way. Moreover, the Kurdish people in Iranian Kordestan have started a justice-seeking movement in a bid to achieve humanitarian objectives, and the majority of the people are participating in this movement in various forms. Even part of the Kurdish combatants resort to the most vital and (?noble) form of struggle against the clerical dictatorship—that is, an armed struggle. This has inflicted heavy losses on the regime and is considered a noteworthy threat against it. [passage omitted]

But the regime has realized more than at any other time that suppression on its own cannot defeat the determination of the resistant Kurdish people and help the

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regime achieve its wretched objectives. For this reason, it does not settle for the extreme suppressive measures in Kordestan and resorts to other plots and hypocrisies. The regime tries to break apart the united ranks of the people and to create a confrontation among the Kurds. Within the framework of this policy, it has constantly tried to arm some of the Kurds by promising them a better life, thus plotting against the Kurdish combatants and movement. It exploits the poverty and deprivation of the people, especially of the adolescents, and offers them the path of spying and even of bombing, poisoning, and assassination. The objective is that if in this way the clergymen's demands are met, the Kurds will be the ones to suffer losses and if they are wounded or arrested in the process, yet another Kurd will be annihilated.

In addition to all this, the regime, which is generally hostile toward the Kurdish people, regards the Kurdish youths more inimically because it knows that they are an effective force in the Kurdish movement and are the ones who confront the regime more. For this reason and to inflict blows on the youths and rob them of their strength, the regime does its best to spread drug addiction among the youths and resorts to various methods which are exactly contrary to what it claims as far as the fight against drugs in Kordestan, and does its best to encourage addiction among the youths.

The regime's plots against Kordestan go beyond all this. For example, the mining of border areas, roads, and even farmlands have killed dozens of toiling people during the past few months and have deprived families of their breadwinners. In addition, hundreds have been maimed. In many cases, in parts of Kordestan that are in the proximity of non-Kurdish areas the regime has separated part of the villages from Kordestan and annexed them to areas outside it. Also, it has used all possible methods to alter the demographic situation of these areas.

Obviously, all these plots have never been and never will be able to stop the growing movement of the Kurds and help the regime achieve its objectives. However, to completely defeat the regime the people in Kordestan should show more resistance to the regime's suppressive policies, adopt a more decisive stance to neutralize each and every plot of the regime, and display more alertness and vigilance on each and every word and deed by the regime.

The people's selflessness and constant efforts, as well as the devotion from the Kurdish combatants, and faithfulness to the path charted by the martyrs and to the Kurdish people's objectives will ultimately lead to the victory of the lofty objectives of our people and to the defeat of the enemies of the Kurds and of the clergymen's antipopular dictatorship. Naturally, the more we participate in the movement, extensively use various combat methods, and operate united the sooner we will achieve victory and our lofty objectives. Thus, let us move in this direction and, by displaying more resistance and selflessness, which is vital for every suppressed and freedom- seeking person, let us carry out the duties that our people and our movement have in mind.

We hope that all of us will tread the path of struggle and victory and will unitedly fulfill the aspirations and objectives of the people and the martyrs.

### Deputy Reports Growth Under First Five-Year Plan

*LD2507124394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Jul 94*

[Text] According to the results achieved from the implementation of the first five-year plan for the country's social-economic-cultural development in the industrial, mining, agriculture, and water sectors, the rate of gross domestic production has increased by 8 percent. The deputy for production affairs of the Budget and Planning Organization said in an interview with our reporter: In the agricultural sector, the allocation of subsidies to farming institutions, extension work, benefiting from research, imposing guaranteed prices, and investing in infrastructural water and earth projects have led to considerable growth, so much that at the end of the first plan, wheat production has increased from 7 million tonnes to 10 million tonnes and rice from 1.7 million tonnes to 2.6 million tonnes; this represents a 6.1 percent growth in the agricultural sector.

He noted: The rate of self-sefficiency [as heard] in the agricultural sector has also shown good growth as a result of the implementation of the first plan. The rate for wheat has risen from 54 percent to 81 percent; rice, from 72 percent to 82 percent; and, sugar, from 51 percent at the beginning of the plan to 69 percent at the end.

Mr. Hoseyn Mahru, deputy for production affairs of the Budget and Planning Organization, said that growth in the industrial sector in the course of the first plan was 11.4 percent and 6.5 percent in the mining sector, adding: During the first plan, steel production in the country rose from 1.4 million tonnes to 4 million tonnes; copper from 58,000 tonnes to more than 100,000 tonnes; and aluminum from 28,000 tonnes to 90,000 tonnes.

In addition, in the petrochemical sector, the production level has risen from 430,000 tonnes to 5.4 million tonnes in the year ending 20 March 1994. Export of industrial products has also risen from $155 million at the beginning of the plan to $1.2 billion at the end of the plan. [figures as heard]

In connection with work carried out to harness water in the country, the deputy said: With the construction of dams in various locations, the amount of harnessed water has reached 9.1 billion cubic metres, representing a 7.8 percent growth.

### Majles Commission Examines Second Five-Year Plan

*LD2507111294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Jul 94*

[Text] As you heard earlier in the bulletin, the Majles commission for the compilation [talfiq] of the second

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five-year plan for the social-economic-cultural development of the country continued its work today by discussing the issue of lasting economic growth and development with agriculture playing a pivotal role. My colleague Hafezi now reports about the explanations provided by the commission's rapporteur about today's agenda:

[Hafezi] Mr. Mohammad Baqer Nowbakht, the rapporteur of the budget commission and of the commission for the compilation of the second development plan, said the following in an interview with the Central News Unit about the commission's work: According to the new internal regulations, the examination of the second plan will be carried out on a two-reading basis. On the first reading, the overall aims and fundamental policy guidelines and related clauses will be discussed and approved and on the second reading the sectional and qualitative aims of the plan will be examined.

He added: Thus far, the compilation commission has delineated and approved 16 topics as the overall qualitative aims of the second plan and five issues as general policy guidelines and it has delineated 114 directives to be able to achieve those aims.

The rapporteur said: in its latest session, the commission examined the issues of increasing productivity and training the required workforce in connection with the plan's overall qualitative aims and approved the directives relating to achieving these aims. He added: The compilation commission stressed the importance of imposing policies providing incentives and sanctions, reforming the salaries and wages system on the basis of work carried out, drawing up timetables for projects and programs, reducing the sale prices of products made by public institutions, and making more efficient use of energy resources and the prevention of waste to achieve the aims of increasing productivity and training and selecting capable and effective managers and assessing their performance.

He added: The commission also set out 12 directives for the achievement of training the workforce. These stress the use of public resources and mass media to reinforce educational programs, the provision of facilities for teachers to acquire further training and education, and the paying of greater attention to the development of people employed in under-privileged areas.

The commission for the compilation of the second plan will examine other overall qualitative aims until the end of next week and, during this time, it will examine the ways in which the plan's qualitative aims, as set out in the plan's various parts and clauses, can be achieved.

## Priorities of Plan Explained

*LD2407122194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Jul 94*

[Text] As you heard in the news, the heads of the joint Majles commission responsible for reviewing the bill on the second development plan today participated in a news conference to report on the commission's activities and the way in which the bill on the second development plan is being studied.

Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] At the start of the news conference, Mr. Askarowladi, head of the joint commission, said the formation of the commission indicates the Majles's special interest in the second five-year-development plan.

He said the joint commission has a total of 35 members, who are from the planning and budget commission and other commissions, and they have started to review the second development plan with great care.

Pointing out that the macropolicies of the second development plan are based on the guidance of the great leader, he said national will is necessary to advance and implement the goals of the second development plan.

Mr. Bahonar, the commission's deputy head, told the news conference that studies indicate that the first development plan has had difficulties in dealing with economic stabilization and inflation, and we hope to compensate this shortcoming by the economic strategies of the second development plans.

He added: In order to implement the great leader's guidance, the joint commission will combine economic growth and development with social justice, and when implementing the various articles of the plan it will keep in mind the need to create social justice and reduce class differences between the rich and the poor.

Mr. Dorri-Najafabadi, the commission's second deputy, also told reporters that for a first step in reviewing the second development plan, the joint commission is making decisions about the aims and policies of the plan.

He said greater attention to nonoil exports will be one of the main axis of the second development plan's economic aspect; an increase in productivity, greater employment for the young, moral development, and steady growth are among the other important axes in the plan.

Responding to a question on the plan's forecasts on the return of foreign debts, Mr. Dorri-Najafabadi said one of the difficulties with the first plan is the short time allocated for the repayment of debts, and the executive organizations envisioned a much shorter period than international standards. But this problem will be solved in the second development plan.

In response to a question on subsidies in the second development plan, Mr. Askarowladi said it is not envisioned that subsidies for goods will be written off, and the distribution of goods will continue in the next five years.

He also stressed that Majles aims to continue the policy of economic adjustment alongside social justice, and therefore aims at following suitable policies which will support those who are vulnerable.

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